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SHAKERITE

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL · 15911 ALDERSYDE DRIVE · SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44120

Block-scheduling for blockheads

Concerned by a rise in student numbers, the administration hopes a schedule change would make better use of space and help students learn more effectively

BY CAITLIN MASINI
Co-News Editor

Why can't we be saved by the bell? Juniors Jed Wolpaw, Shannon Moodie, John Sawyer and Michael Gross struggle through the monotony of yet another boring class.

Shakerite photo by Iahn Gonsenhauser

The scheduling committee, headed by science teacher Roderick MacLeod and social studies teacher Diana Jones, voted last Tuesday to continue using the current seven period schedule for next year.

The committee was created to attempt to solve the problem of scheduling for next year. The committee's primary job was to figure out a way to accommodate the aproximately 100 additional students that will attend the high school next year. They looked at the possibility of adding an eighth class period to our present seven period day or continuing with the current schedule and working to utilize space more effectively. Adding an eighth period would have made the school day approximately 20 minutes longer and created a 50 minute lunch period, according to MacLeod.

The committee voted to continue with our current schedule because having a 50 minute lunch period created problems in the past, according to MacLeod. He said that students used to get in trouble during the extra time. Having a longer day also interferes with sports schedules, and students are more tired by the last period and thus less likely to attend conference time.

The committee looked at population charts to find trends that would predict future class sizes, so a schedule could be created to accommodate those numbers, but few trends could be found, according to MacLeod. The number of students that switch to private schools or move out of the school district cannot be predicted. One trend that was seen, though, is that class size tends to decrease as students become upperclassmen, MacLeod said.

"We are trying to make a prediction based on general trends, but it is hard. It is not an exact science," MacLeod said.

The committee is now going over the schedule and looking at the times when rooms are available. Next year, the committee will start looking at ways for students to learn better through alternative scheduling for future years, according to Chair of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Wiliam Newby.

MacLeod said the committee has not begun looking at alternative schedules, but many people have strong opinons on options such as block scheduling, a method backed by little hard research.

"I need to see some good educational data to prove it," MacLeod said.

Junior Sarah Blake transferred to Shaker this year from Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio, Texas. Recently, she spoke to the Shakerite about going to school at Churchill, which has a block schedule.

Shakerite: What kind of scheduling did you have at Churchill?
Blake: We had two separate days: A days and B days. We had four classes every day, each an hour an a half long. The weeks alternated: one week we would have two A days and three B days, and the next week we would have three A days and two B days.
Shakerite: What was the best part of having a block schedule?
Blake: We didn't have much homework each night because we only had four clases each day instead of eight.
Shakerite: What was the worst part?
Blake: If you had a boring teacher, you had to sit in front of them for an hour and a half straight.
Shakerite: Was there anything else interesting about having a block schedule?
Blake: You get more credits because you take eight classes a year instead of seven. You might not think it's important, but it is because I could've graduated early this year with the seniors, but I decided not to. You also get a half hour for lunch, and seven minutes between classes. You don't need to go to your locker that much because you're not carrying all of your books [you only need your books for the four classes you have that day].
Shakerite: What happened to the schedule on days when there was an assembly?
Blake: We had a pep rally every Friday before school, and we never stayed after school. If there was homeroom, they just shortened the periods.

Shakerite interview conducted by Myra Maresh

Students, teachers discuss schedule options

➥"We are concerned with any kind of schedule that could have an adverse affect on the program. That is not to say we are totally opposed [to change]; we are open minded, but losing rehearsal time is a concern that affects marching band."
–Band Director Hans Bohnert

➥"I like the current schedule very much because you do not spend too much time in any one class, and if you miss a class, you do not miss a week's worth of work like you might with block scheduling."
–Junior Abby Freedman

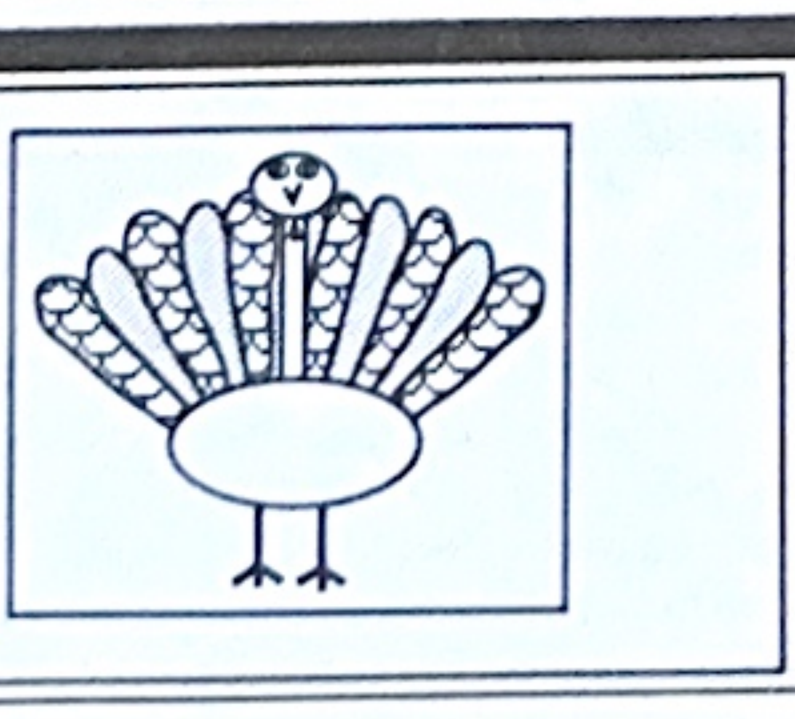
➥"I do not think block scheduling would be a good idea because kids would have a hard time paying attention."
–Freshman Meghan Crosby

➥"I think block scheduling would be beneficial in classes like science where it helps to spend more time with the teacher."
–Sophomore Josiah Quarles

➥"I think block scheduling is a good way to prepare you for college, but I am not sure if it will have a positive effect on the school."
–Junior Danielle Thornton

➥"I actually had block scheduling my freshman year in Canada. Most people have trouble getting through a 50 minute period. In order to make the periods longer, the subject matter would have to be changed and made more interesting so that people wouldn't fall asleep."
–Senior Grayden MacLennan

➥"I think the schedule we have now is fine and changes do not need to be made."
–Senior Darnell Jones



MMMMM..... THANKSGIVING

Turkey, stuffing, and cranberries are yummy, but Feature's feast will fill up your tummy

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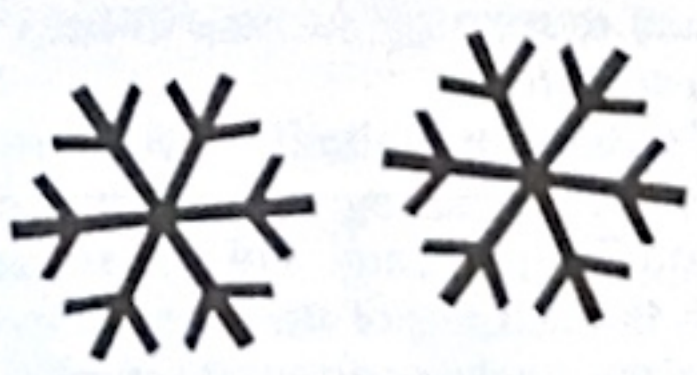

WINTER SPORTS HEAT IT UP!

Never mind the wintry weather, this season's sports teams are sizzlin'

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We all love that white stuff. Here are the facts.

- Superintendent Mark Freeman and Administrator Carlton Moody make the decision on snow days.
- The state mandates that there are 182 days of school.
- Shaker has 185 days total, 178 instructional, 3 conference days, and 4 professional days.
- Shaker can have five days without needing to make them up. Shaker has had 7 snow days in the past 3 years.
- The state has the authority to say that a snow day does not need to be made up.

Shakerite Source: Carlton Moody and Dr. James Paces

Bridging the road to success:

New Bridges program increases achievement

BY NAWAL ATWAN
Co-News Editor

After the end of its first grading period, the newly inaugurated team taught Bridges program for ninth grade CP students is beginning to accomplish its goal of increasing student achievement, according to math teacher and Bridges developer Allan Slawson.

The Bridges program was designed by Slawson last year to provide a better transition for ninth grade students between the middle school and the high school. The program, team taught by English teacher Jody Podl, social studies teacher Tod Torrence, science teacher Dr. Monroe Kennedy and Slawson, contains 86 students taking all ninth grade CP classes.

After the students' ninth grade first quarter grade point averages for the four core courses were compared to their eighth grade second semester averages, Slawson found approximately 64 percent of the students in the program increased their grade point averages, 19 percent stayed the same and 17 dropped.

The team taught program focuses on integrating subject matter between each core class. Since the four teachers work together with the same students, students receive more individualized attention and learn to strive cooperatively for success, Slawson said.

"I think the Bridges program has achieved its goal of providing a smooth transition from the middle school to the high school for students. The family-like atmosphere created by teachers has had a very positive effect on students," Kennedy said.

The four teachers connect subject areas by linking such topics as English mythology to social studies, English vocabulary words to science, or algebra skills to science comprehension. According to Podl, teaching the same 86 students as the other three teachers allows them to focus on each student's progress more thoroughly. Podl found students have a greater drive to complete assignments as a result of the course overlap.

During open house, the Bridges program teachers issued a questionnare to parents of students in the program to gain responses about the new program. According to Slawson, the majority of parents found that their child was more motivated to achieve in school and requested that the program be continued in the 10th grade.

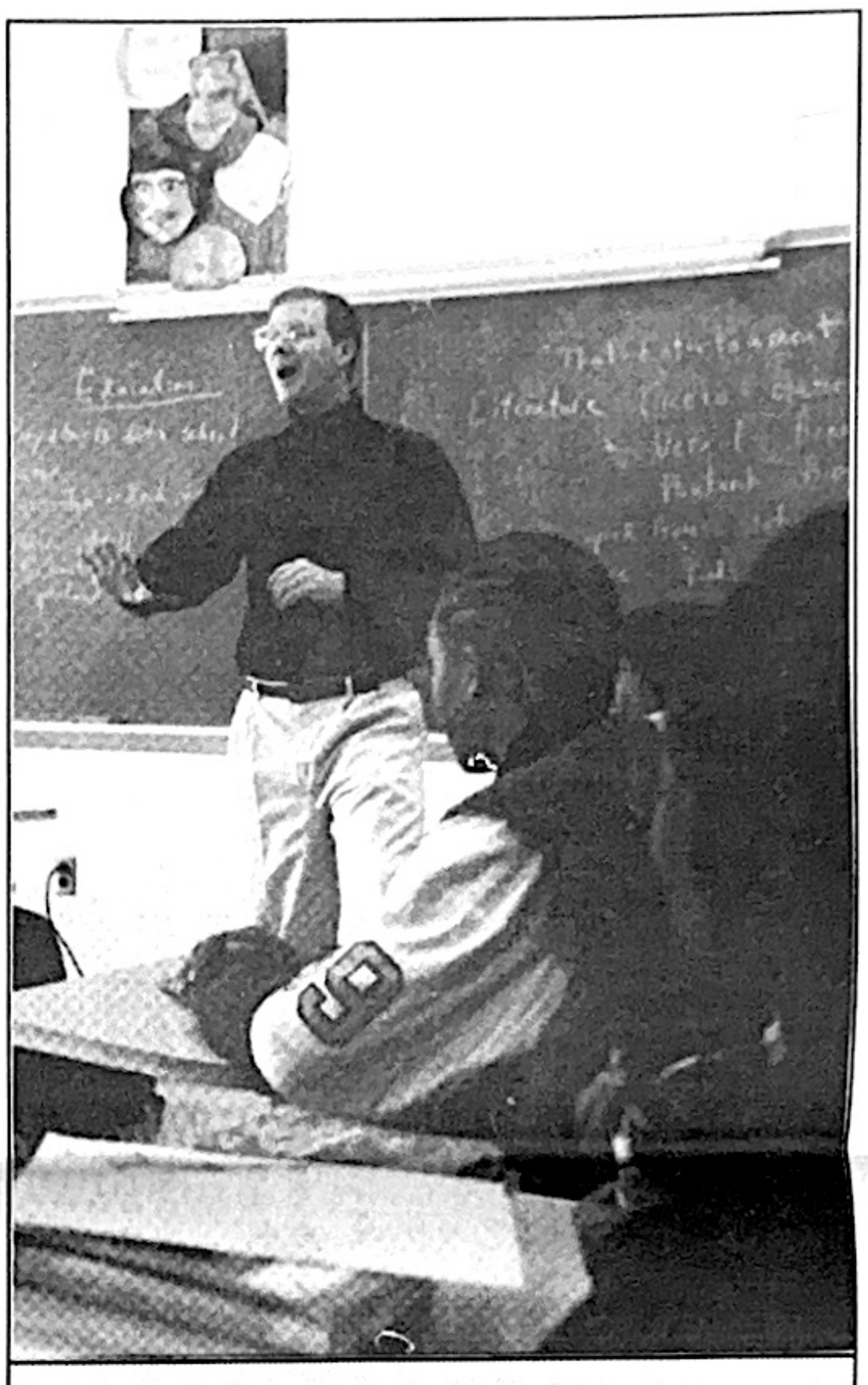
Students in the program attribute the increase in achievement to the willingness of teachers to explain and integrate subject matter more thoroughly.

"The Bridges program really helps us a lot. The teachers help to bring each subject together and we are doing better this year," freshman Bridges student Sean Mclendon said.

New teaching approaches include goal setting seminars, inspirational speeches held in the small auditorium and spirit awards given to exemplary students. The block-type schedule of the program allows for more flexibility in daily activities. Recently, guest speaker *The Plain Dealer* "Next" Editor Julie Washington spoke to the Bridges students about the benefits of setting high goals.

Several students with improved GPAs saw an increase of over one full grade point compared to last year. Freshman Lauren Markt, who increased her GPA by one grade point, attributes her success to the Bridges format.

"I really enjoy it [Bridges]. Everyone has the same teachers and we stay in a group, so it is easier to learn," Markt said.



The art of fine teaching. Social studies teacher Tod Torrence instructs the Bridges program students.

Shakerite photo by Iahn Gonsenhauser

'Senior only' hats to be marketed

BY TOMMY GELEHRTER
Co-Sports Editor

High school students should expect to see a new line of "senior only" hats worn around school.

Last month, security guard Sedric Toney and math teacher Al Siebert announced that they will be selling a special hat to senior students. The hat will be white, and it will display the Raider logo and read, "Shaker Heights High School, Class of '97."

At this time the hats will be available only to seniors and will come only in the white color.

"We are going to see how the first response to it is," Toney said. "After that we will evaluate the situation and look into the possibility of different colors and possibly even offering it to students in the other classes."

Toney's plans right now are to market the hats to the senior class before winter break and then target sales to the juniors in the spring of '97.

"Hopefully it will all go over well now, and then the juniors will be excited to buy them come spring," he said. "If we give them to the students before the summer they will have the summer to break them in and get some wear out of them before their senior year."

Toney and Siebert plan to sell the hats during lunch periods. They also plan to pass out order forms to students.

Last summer Toney, Siebert, a doctor, three entrepreneurs and a financial consultant teamed up to form a hat-making company called Headlights.

They pursued the idea of forming a business, and before they knew it they were hooked up with a fiber-optics company in California and were in business.

"We have really made leaps and bounds since starting in June. We have definitely made great progress," Toney said.

Headlights distributes hats all over the country to numerous professional and college teams.

Toney and Siebert decided this summer that targeting high school students would be profitable.

Project Achieve forms mission for schools

BY MYRA MARESH
Staff Reporter

Project Achieve is an educational initiative bringing together the entire Shaker community.

Administrators, faculty members, parents and students united in '95 to form community dialogues and faculty meetings. As a result, the community members created Project Achieve. Student issues, community issues and quality education were among the topics they discussed, and from there the group decided what their focus would be.

"The purpose of this group is to look at and analyze student achievement issues and to recommend strategies to the school board and the superintendent, to close the gap between the potential and performance of each student," School Board member Nancy Moore said.

Program members said they are encouraged that Project Achieve will not only help students in their academic careers, but that it will also bring the community together.

"I am optimistic about this program and that the faculty and community will be working together," Project Achieve co-chair Dr. James Paces said.

Project Achieve consists of four subcommittees: Designing Tomorrow's Schools, Parent Involvement, Professional Development and Educational Technology.

The first division, Designing Tomorrow's Schools, is seeking the best structures and environments for students to learn in. Those involved are also examining time use in the classroom, grade placement and measuring success to help them in their search.

"The question about school structure that we are discussing is how can we best use time for learning. We have recently been in the process of drafting a survey to address the question to elementary school teachers," Chair of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. William Newby said.

The goal of the Parent Involvement group is to include parents in the education of their child. Also important to the subcommittee is keeping the parents informed by opening up lines of communicaton between parents and teachers open.

"So far we have set up a parent outreach program for parents who would not otherwise participate in the education of their child. We are in the process of setting up parent centers, talking about putting together a parent handbook so parents can help their kids with the process and a parent mentoring center," parent and Project Achieve member Emily Eklund said.

The Professional Development Group is designed to to examine and analyze instructional methodology, diversity and different learning styles.

Finally, Technology is the subcommittee working on library automation, district-wide networking, professional development needs and establishing equity in the access to equipment.

In addition to the parents, teachers and administrators involved, students have joined the effort.

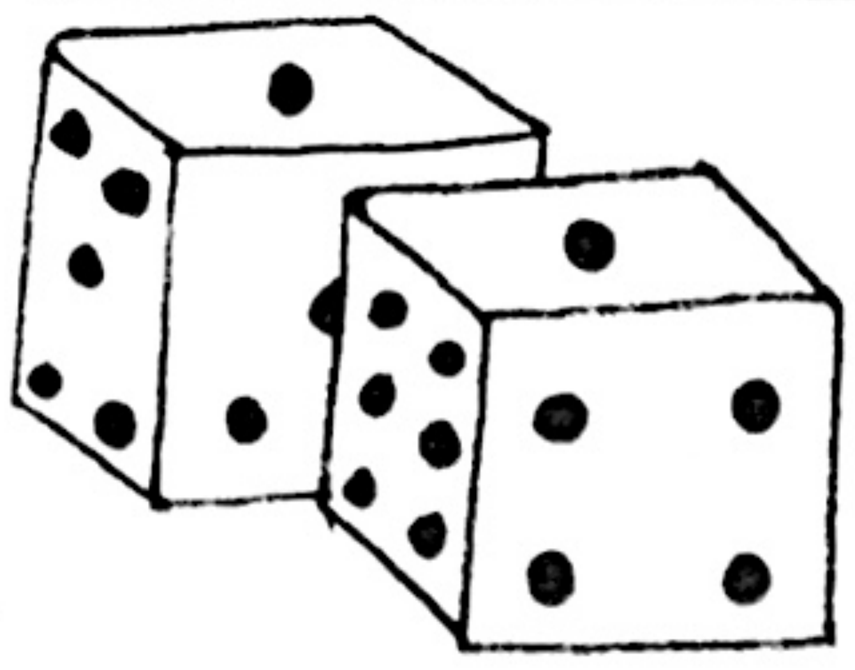
"The Student Advisory Committee, including students from Woodbury, the middle school and the high school, was formed to provide Project Achieve with insights about their classroom experiences," Paces said.

Several students said they are grateful that they are being included in the district-wide effort and are positive about Project Achieve.

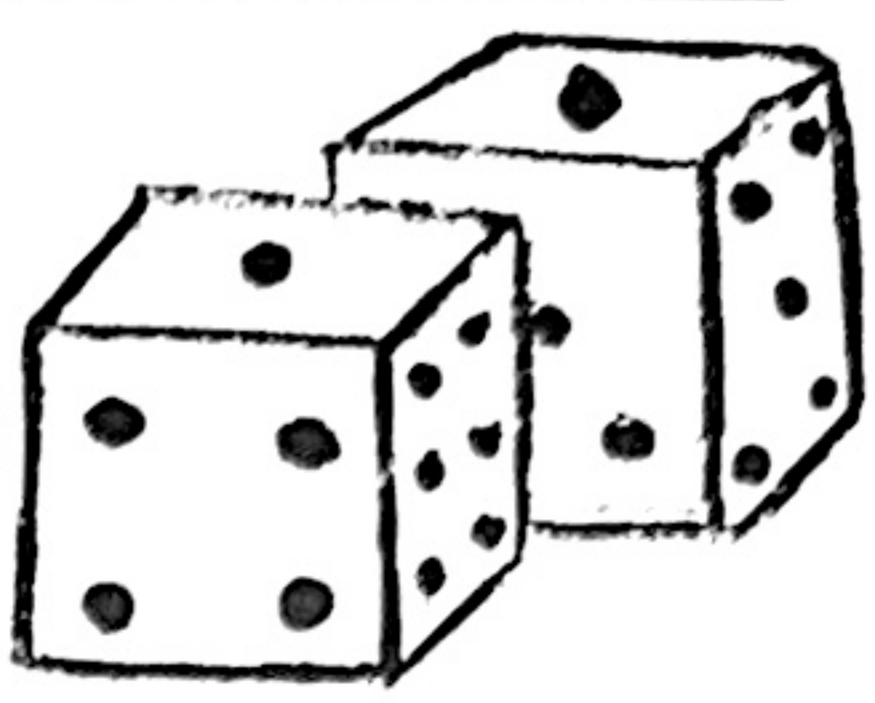
"It was an excellent idea. I feel that student input is very valuable for what they are trying to accomplish. I also think that it is important that they listen because the faculty and teachers can learn a lot from all we have to say," senior Sara Kaufman said.

Senior Alex Rawson agreed with Kaufman.

"I would say that they have started on the right track. I think if they use what they have started with and get a broader range of student input then they will get a more accurate result," Rawson said.



Student play is 'rocking the boat'



BY SCOTT FULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Who doesn't love a musical? The electric atmosphere on the night of a performance; the bright lights cascading down and illuminating the stage; the rows of dimly lit faces gazed in zombielike fascination at the brilliant actors before them; the brassy, toe-tapping musical numbers; the lively, energetic dancing; the soothing, tearful love ballads... what a magnificent experience! Showing at the high school from Dec. 5–7 is a musical in one of its finest forms: "Guys and Dolls". And according to members of its cast, it is going to be fabulous.

This year, four seniors are featured as the play's principle roles: Bernard Williams as Sky Masterson, Christi Callsen as Sarah Browne, Patrick McMenamin as Nathan Detroit and Sara Spagnuolo as Adelaide. A new director is conducting the show, 22-year-old Ned Gallaway .

"He is very focused, and he brings a lot of fresh ideas," Williams said. "He's really open with the cast, he's friendly, and he's just a lot of fun to work with."

Callsen can say nothing but the same.

"He's very energetic and enthusiastic," she said. "In some ways its nice having him as a director because as we are learning, he's learning things too," Callsen said.

According to McMenamin, the production lost nearly 17 hours of rehearsal time due to the snow days. Surprisingly, on the day back, Gallaway was not upset at all, but pleased by the turn of events. Gallaway claims he works better under pressure when he has less time to put it together. Spagnuolo said the first few days following the blizzard were fairly stressful and people had to work hard for things to come together, but according to McMenamin, the cast was never terribly worried because of their faith in Gallaway.

"We pretty much have confidence in him. It was a little weird at first, he looked so young. But now the cast completely respects him," McMenamin said.

Spagnuolo said Gallaway's personable nature explains his popularity among the cast. Also, she finds it is easier to relate to him since he is only 22 years old.

"I like Ned a lot. It might just be that he's younger, but we can joke around, and he's like a friend," Spagnuolo said. "He's a great director."

In addition to his directing talents, it cannot hurt to have a talented cast with the likes of Williams, Callsen, McMenamin and Spagnuolo, according to the stage manager.

Williams, whose distinctly powerful, soulful voice can also be heard in the choir and Chanticleers, brings quite a charismatic presence to the production. According to McMenamin, among others, Williams' singing ability is something truly special to witness.

"He's incredible," McMenamin said. "I was a little worried having to sing with him, because I was not sure how I was going to sound."

Theatre Department Head and director of past plays James Thornton gives Gallaway approval.

"The guest director is really good. What is really fun for me is that his adviser was one of my student teachers," Thornton said.

Debbie Rosner '90

"Guys and Dolls"! Seniors Sara Spagnuolo, Pat McMenamin, Christi Callsen, and David Demming show off their acting garb.

Shakerite photo by Iahn Gonsenhauser

Student Council helps middle school

BY NAJAH FARLEY
Staff Reporter

The Policy Committee of Student Council has plans underway to help start a student council at the middle school. This committee is comprised of senior Graham Lanz, sophomore Lauren Dietrich and freshman Ericka Johnson.

The committee spoke with Principal A. Jack Rumbaugh, then, he contacted Middle School Principal Neil Glazer. Glazer approved the idea of a student council at the middle school.

"They think that its a great idea to have a student council at the middle school," sophomore Lauren Dietrich said.

The high school committee plans to hold elections during the second semester of this year. Then they are going to meet with the middle school student council members to help them write a constitution. The constitution will be based on the high school constitution. From there they will begin to address some of the students' concerns.

"I heard Shaker Middle School students saying that they were having problems and it looked the only people having those problems were the students. Their needs were not being expressed. I thought they should have the chance to have a voice," senior Graham Lanz said.

Currently their student council consists of students who volunteered during homeroom.

"We have representatives to make spirit signs for games and we are putting together a dance group to perform at some local nursing homes like the Somerset Inn," Stacey Elgart the current teacher advisor to the student council said.

The policy committee hopes that as a result of the student council at the middle school, the students will be familiar with student government and participate in the high school.

"Everyone is enthusiastic about it. We are all confident that it is going to work," senior Graham Lanz said.

Boswell leads Shaker *into* world of computers

Shakerite photo by Iahn Gonsenhauser

BY GRAHAM LANZ
Staff Reporter

After many years of being auditorium manager and technical director for Shaker Theater, Walter Boswell will hand the headset over and take on a new job.

As soon as a replacement is found, Boswell will be full time district network manager. His job will be to oversee the equipping of all school facilities with internet access.

The state of Ohio has created a new program called "Schoolnet." The program provides funding to school systems to help them upgrade their computer facilities. Shaker is using this funding to create a computer network which will allow teachers and students at different schools around the district to communicate without leaving the classroom, according to Boswell.

Boswell said he plans to start wiring classrooms in December. The first priority for the program is to computerize the card catalogs in the libraries, which should be completed by January.

Once the project is completed, there should be computers in every teacher's office and hopefully two computers in every classroom, according to Boswell.

These computers will be connected with other computers in the school to create a "local area net." Then all of the schools will be connected in a "wide area net."

"Ultimately, they want to wire all of the schools in Ohio together," Boswell said.

Shaker's computers will run on a type of computer protocol called 'Eithernet.' The classrooms will be wired with two wires and two fiberoptic lines.

"With fiberoptic lines you can download the entire Library of Congress in a small fraction of time," Boswell said.

The new computers will be a mixture of Macintoshes or IBM compatibles with Windows '95. They will mostly go to the elementary schools. There will also be computers available to students in clusters at the libraries.

"Almost 100 percent is for student use. It has some incredible opportunities for student use in the classroom," Boswell said.

In the future, students at Shaker should be able to take part in obscure classes not available at the high school by 'video conferencing' with other students and teachers in Ohio, Boswell said.

Latin and math teacher Bob White said he hopes to use his newly installed television to display what appears on the screen of the computer which will soon be in his classroom. The new TVs throughout the high school can be hooked up so that all of the students can view what the teacher does on the computer without having to crowd around the screen.

"There's a lot of great stuff on [the Internet] for all languages," White said.

A Shaker E-mail address is also being planned right now, as well as more Shaker related Web sites. Right now, Shaker only has one Web site: http://www.shaker.org.

Shaker is fortunate to have waited this long to initiate a computer network, Boswell said. Other area high schools already have networks in place, but some of them are already considered obsolete.

"It's good that Shaker is taking this step and getting up to date," Boswell said.

Poet-in-residence inspires students through his life trials

BY SARAH LEVIN
Staff Reporter

Dressed all in black, his long blond ponytail swinging behind, he casually saunters onto the stage, preparing to perform his poetry to many of the high school English classes.

Ray McNiece is the Semanteme's poet-in-residence this year. He was here helping out with the literary magazine, which raised enough money through donut sales to invite McNiece to the high school.

Born on the road, McNiece's father was a traveling salesman. The family eventually settled in Willoughby, Ohio, where Ray spent most of his childhood. He attended Immaculate Conception Elementary School and went to Willoughby South for high school. McNiece then went on to study at Ohio University and was part of the graduate writing program at the University of Houston in Texas.

McNiece can recall writing poems ever since he was eight years old. His parents enjoyed reading and encouraged him to read and write for pleasure. He also owes a lot to his grandmother.

"She was an Appalachian and she was self-educated. She taught herself how to read and write," McNiece recalls. "I remember her memorizing the entire book of Ruth and reciting it to me when I was a kid."

McNiece is a member of many acting and poetry groups, in addition to his work in leading workshops at high schools. He is a two-time member of the Poetry Slam Team, a team in which the top four finishers out of ten in Cleveland are chosen to compete at the National Poetry Slam Contest. In 1994, McNiece's team won. McNiece is also involved in the Black Poetic Society, which has readings every Sunday evening at the Arabica at University Circle. Alternate Roots is a social action theatre group that he devotes time to as well.

Senior Holly Bosley enjoyed going to the seminar with her English class.

"I really like hearing him recite his poetry. He also gave good advice on writing poetry. It helped me to improve my writing," Bosley said.

McNiece has traveled all over the country presenting his poetry. He has lived out of his car, hotels and off of friends' couches. Some of his favorite cities to perform in are Asheville, North Carolina; Birmingham, Alabama; San Francisco and New York City.

Though he enjoys reciting his poetry to adults, McNiece noted that he really enjoys working with kids in high school workshops.

"This is my bread and butter, doing theatre and writing workshops. The kids are sometimes resistant at first, but after a little while they let their guard down and are more willing to listen," McNiece said of his three day workshop he conducted at the high school.

He was also a part of the open mike poetry reading held in the small auditorium on Nov. 8.

Oh, and one last thing (from Ray's mouth to your eyes):

"Buy my book! It's called *The Road That Carried Me Here.*"

Chair of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. William Newby said he was pleased with the program. He found the coffee house workshop with McNiece after school worked well.

"I was very enthused to see the attention the students gave to Ray," Newby said.

The Semantene is also sponsoring the second poet-in-residence, Sara Holbrook, who will return in early December.

Let the creative juices flow! Poet-in-residence Ray McNiece held a poetry workshop for students.

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C L

Ode to Snow

Snow, oh snow, you're a lovely thing.
You make schoolbells cease to ring.
You cover roads with clouds that sparkle,
Whiter than the hair of Bob Barker.
You block the driveway of the superintendent
With a mass of fluff that is resplendent.
Snow, oh snow, you're a lovely thing.
Especially when my brother is shovelling.

–J.W.

THE RITE IDEA

Whoa – snow!

In a school system well known for its singular ability to stay open despite sub-zero temperatures, lake-effect catastrophes and mild flooding, it is with deepest sincerity that we thank the administration for its decision to close school on Nov. 11, 12 and 13.

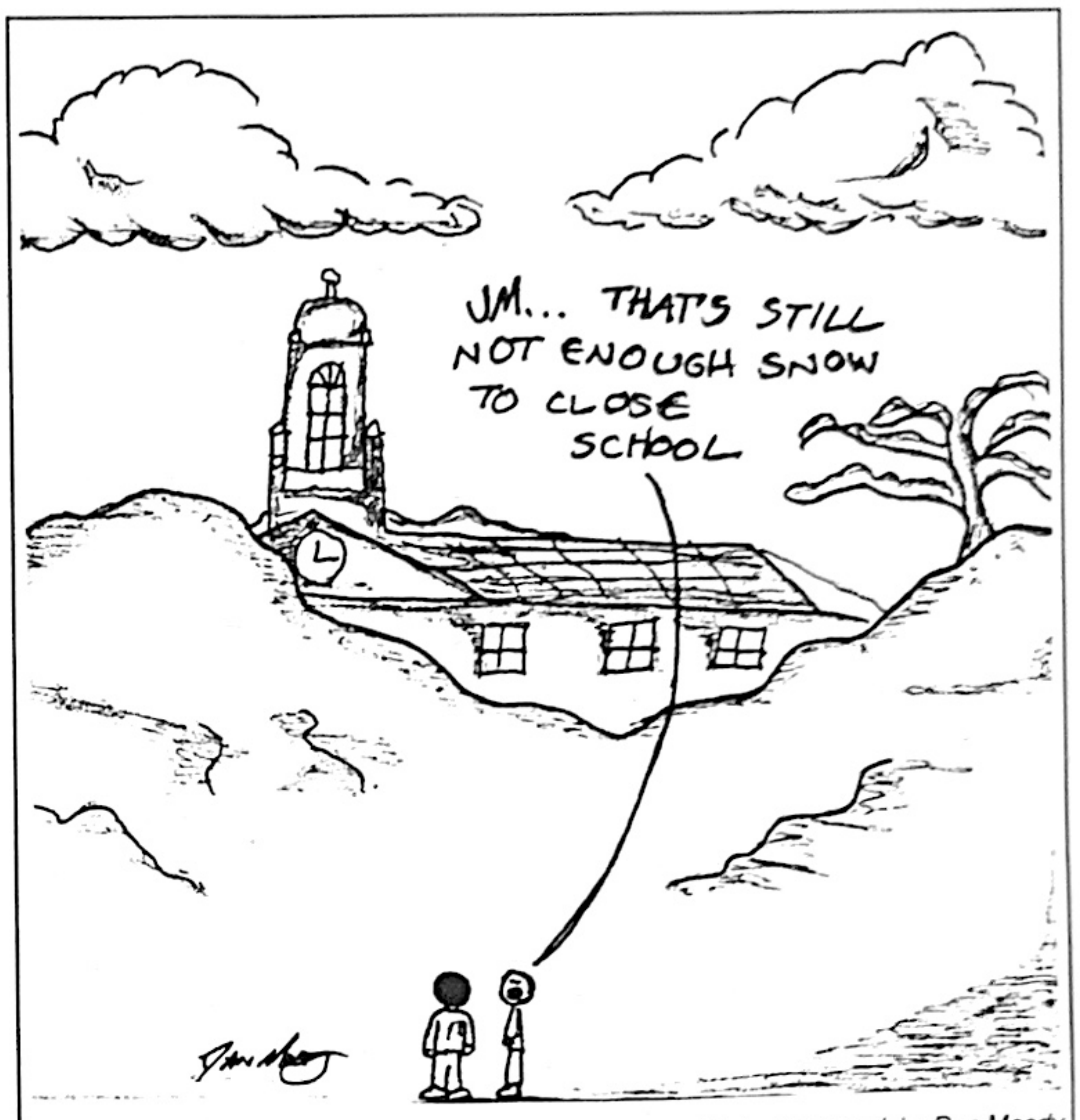
The early, wet and constant snow made life unusually difficult for most Shaker students for those three days. Inconveniences ranged from excess shoveling to four-day power outages, from falling gutters and falling branches to falling trees and falling roofs. Many students and faculty were without heat or light and were forced to move in with friends and neighbors until C.E.I. restored power.

It would have been disastrous to open school on Tuesday morning. The streets were still largely unplowed, the entrances to the high school were inaccesible and transportation was barely functional; by Monday evening the Green Road rapid had been replaced by a series of inefficient shuttle busses. The snow was at least as tall as some of the kindergarteners and first-graders, and the possibility of vehicular manslaughter as they trudged their weary way to school was very, very real.

Speaking of vehicles, few, if any, were actually in working order on Tuesday morning. Students and teachers who normally drive to school would have had to walk, rely on unreliable public transportation, wake up around 5:30 a.m. in order to clear their driveways, come to school late, cold and tired or, and this is the likeliest among these posibilities, not come at all. And the teachers (those who could arrive from their homes further east of here) may have had to park around the oval, since it is unlikely that the city would have been able to plow the streets and the parking lot on such short notice.

Frankly, opening school on Nov. 12 would have been ludicrous: a fool's enterprise. Students that came (and there would not have been many) would have been agitated and restless, and teachers that showed (and there would not have been many) would have been equally short-tempered and frustrated. Many students would have done their homework by candlelight in 30-degree rooms on Tuesday night. The decision not to open school was wise.

We all remember the grade-school rumors that our superintendent only closes schools when he can not get down his driveway. (The theory is that he planted electric wires under the driveway to melt his snow.) Our three snow days proved one of two things; either Mark Freeman really doesn't have any wires under his driveway, or there was too much snow for them to


JM... THAT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH SNOW TO CLOSE SCHOOL

Shakerite artwork by Dan Moody

THE TOP TEN

Ways you know that someone is a loser ...

10. When you say, "Let's go check out some new CD's," they drive you to National City Bank.

9. When you tell them to go try and pick up a babe, they come home with a movie about a pig.

8. They think a phat beat is a large red vegetable that you pick out of salads.

7. When you tell them you scored this weekend, they ask you how many points.

6. When you say you got lucky with a girl, they ask you how far you got finishing her homework.

5. Their favorite pick-up line is, "I bake a mean low-fat crouton."

4. They model their daring fashion creations after the wardrobes of their science teachers.

3. They have programmed in the entire works of Stuart Smalley into their graphing calculator.

2. Their favorite website is called "Sea Monkey Enthusiasts International."

...and the number one reason is...

1. When you tell them you're going on a run tonight, they tell you it's too cold to go jogging.

CHEERS & JEERS

Three **Cheers** for Mother Nature. She hooked us *up*.

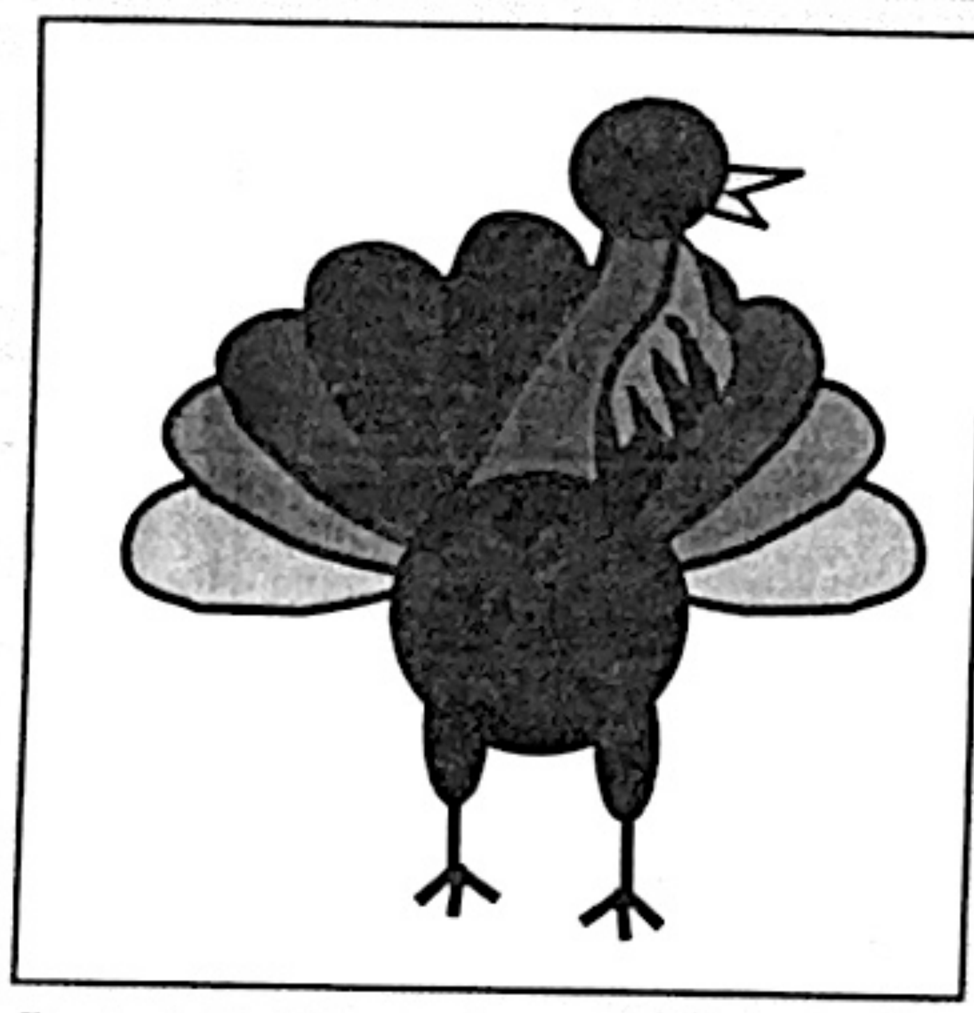
Jeers to flat roofs.

Cheers to Thanksgiving, turkey, and stuffing.

Jeers to giblets.

Major **Cheers** to everyone in the city of Cleveland who voted to pass the levy.

Shaker Heights High School In A Snow Storm



Jeers to taking so long to do it.

Jeers to the fat content in Rally's cheeseburgers.

Cheers to eating them anyway.

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- Journalism Education Association
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- Northern Ohio Scholastic Press Association

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Revenge of the Nerds

Watch out, the dorks of today will be dangerous tomorrow

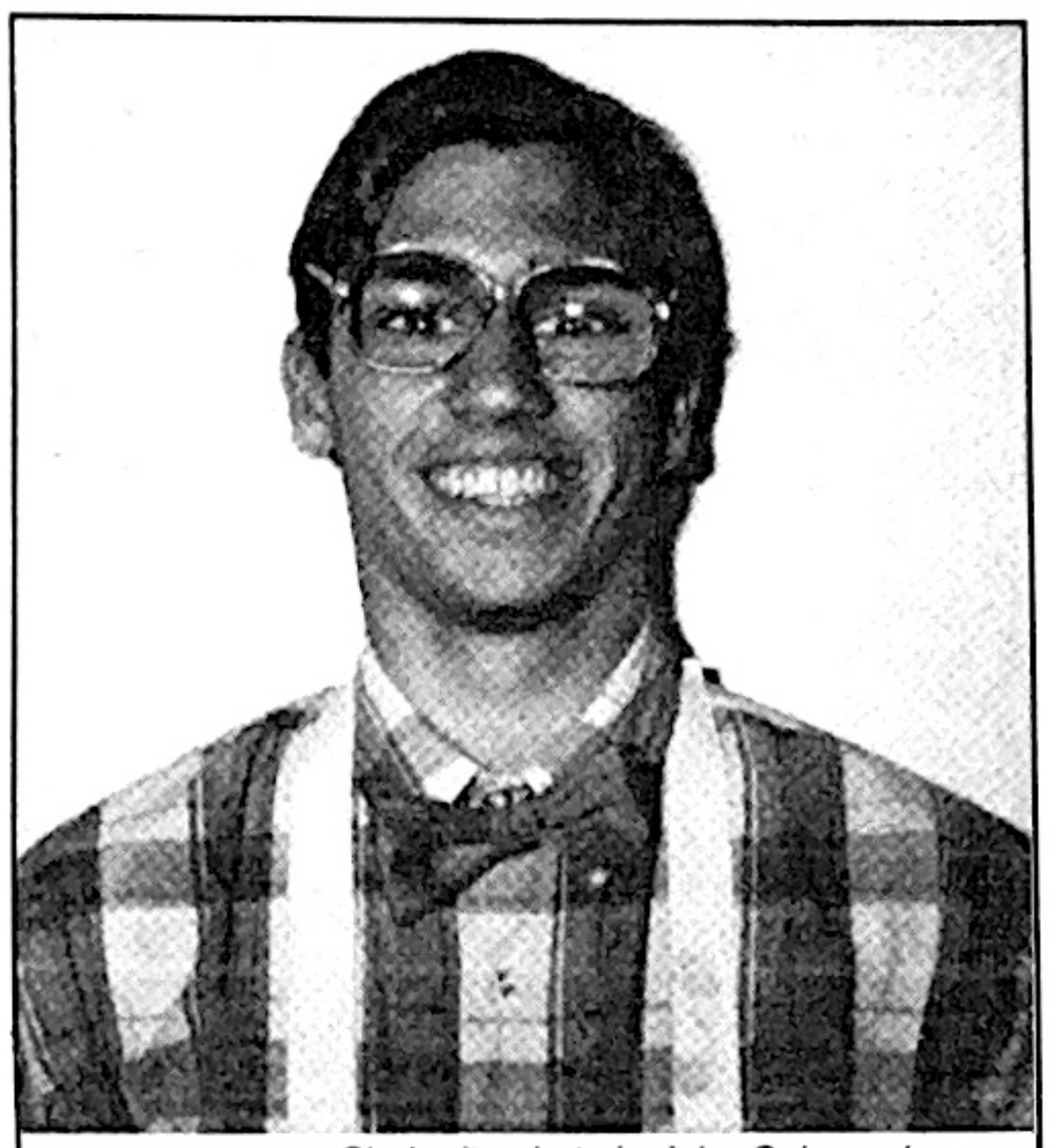
BY SCOTT FULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jessica Weeks, Co-Opinion Editor, asked me if I would write an article for her section this month. I said I certainly would, and I asked her what the topic was.

"About how the dorks of today will be the successful leaders of our world tomorrow," she said.

At this remark a sudden flash of anger shot through me. I have enough trouble controlling my rage when straight-A students whine and pout about their their "terrible grades" when they know all too well that their semester report cards will once again be littered with nothing but A's. But the thought that these same nerds will one day be the leaders of our society infuriates me even more.

When I gaze into what I hope our nation's future will one day be, I see a country led by the forceful speakers of my generation. I see not the mild-mannered teachers' pets who silently collect their A's in the front of the class. Instead, I see the loud-mouthed hecklers in the back who manage to make brilliant comment after brilliant comment, yet who fail to win the teacher's favor because they are "disruptive," they have one too many words to enlighten their fellow students, and in many cases, they truly are bright enough and dynamic enough to teach the class themselves. I know few straight-A students who can be characterized in such a manner.



Shakerite photo by Iahn Gohnsenhauser

Sadly enough, these same students who play the role of leaders now will in all likelihood wind their way down a different path as their lives progress. They aren't fascinated by the prospect of becoming doctors or lawyers; these will not be the people you will see living in big houses, driving around in Mercedes, wearing expensive suits to work everyday, or golfing at the country club (though I can now understand why some might choose to follow this course).

No, you will find these students becoming teachers, writers, or artists (though I don't mean to imply that one cannot be equally successful in these fields). I saw a bumper-sticker the other day that said something like, "It's too bad that the people who know how to run the country are busy teaching."

This is an unfortunate truth. Bill Clinton is in the White House not because he is best qualified to govern our nation, but because he went to Yale, he knew the right people and he wanted to be President just a trifle more than anybody else.

Yet the fact remains that these nerds become the powerful figures in our society. I shouldn't hate them for their 1600's on the SAT's. I shouldn't hate them them for volunteering for community service and joining clubs that they just aren't interested in simply for the purpose making their college transcripts look more impressive. I shouldn't hate them for kissing up to teachers so that they might get good grades. I shouldn't hate them for studying for math tests when they could be enjoying the beauties of our existence, like golf, billiards and Tecmo Super Bowl. I am well aware that I could do all these same things that nerds do and get good grades myself, but to be honest, I simply don't want to. And so I will go on despising them.

> ***"I shouldn't hate them for studying for math tests when they could be enjoying the beauties of our existence like golf, billiards and Tecmo Super Bowl...Yet the fact remains that these nerds become the powerful figures of our society."***

Suddenly, a bolt of curiosity struck me.

"Jessica," I asked, "am I a dork who will one day be successful?"

"Yes."

Oh, I thought. My fury still burned inside me from all of my earlier criticisms of dorks. Now I was among them. Surprisingly, I was strangely flattered.

'Mock' the vote

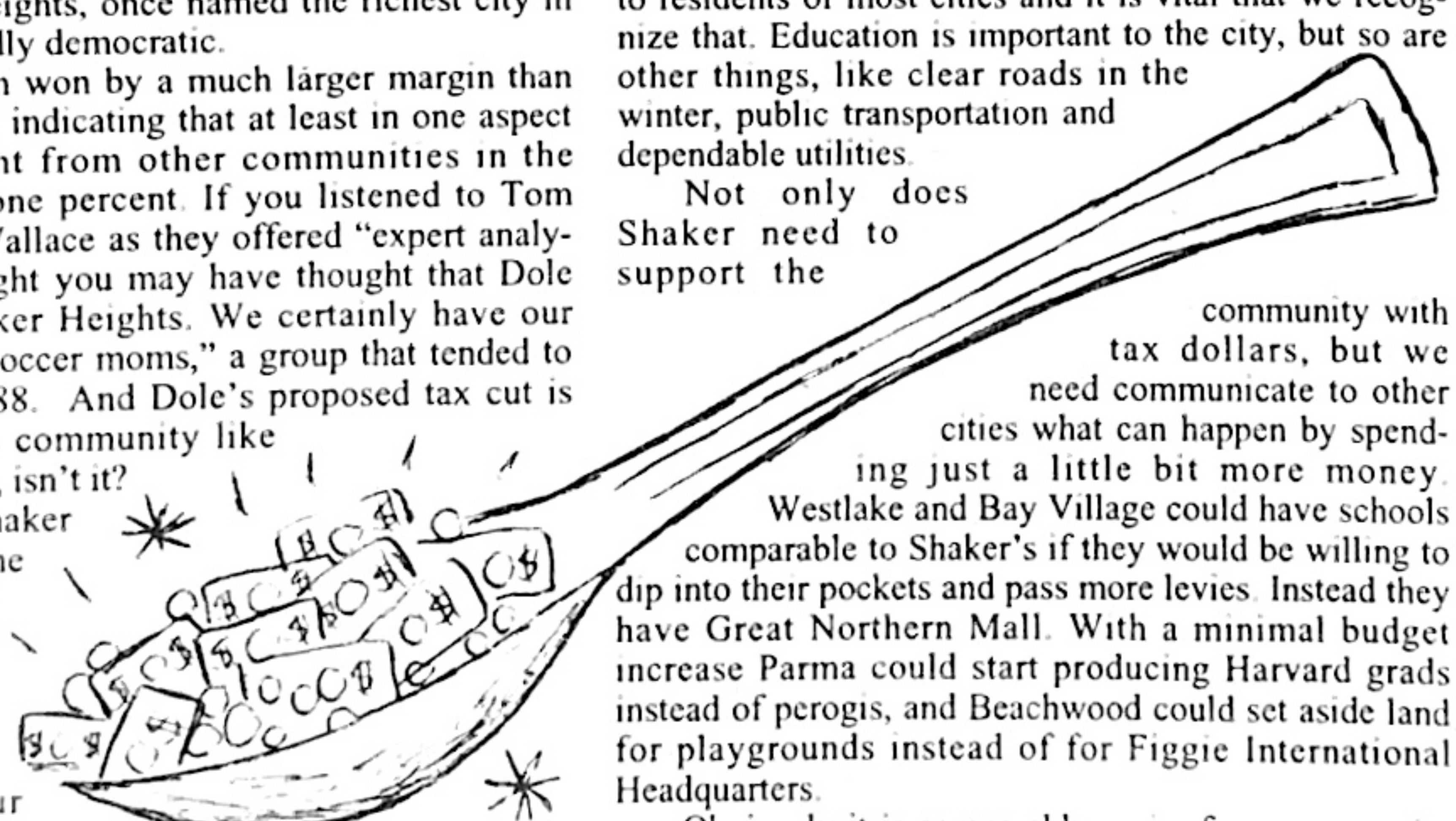
Voters at local political gathering prescribe a liberal *dose of democracy*

BY NED SACKMAN
Co-Arts and Entertainment Editor

When America went to the polls on Nov. 6 the results were anticipated: Clinton would win carrying women and minorities, and Dole would finish a solid second, carrying the economically conservative upper class. But when Shaker turned out for the local mock election on Oct. 29, the results were anything but predictable. Shaker Heights, once named the richest city in Ohio, voted decidedly democratic.

Locally Clinton won by a much larger margin than in the real election, indicating that at least in one aspect Shaker is different from other communities in the income tax's top one percent. If you listened to Tom Brokaw or Mike Wallace as they offered "expert analysis" on election night you may have thought that Dole would win in Shaker Heights. We certainly have our share of affluent "soccer moms," a group that tended to vote for Bush in '88. And Dole's proposed tax cut is what a prosperous community like Shaker really wants, isn't it?

In this case Shaker has proved to be the exception and not the rule. We are a community willing to spend the money available to take care of our people. The school system is one of the best in the area because of what we spend on education annually (those that didn't vote for the levy may know what I'm talking about). In the November election Shaker's bond issue passed, while most of the levies in the area failed. It is because Shaker is willing to spend a little money that is a little nicer to live here. We may pay more in sanitation tax, but we don't have to leave our trash in the street because the city comes to get it.



Shaker is not only willing to better the community, but to trust the local government as well. Usually in a city of Shaker's position the people would rather hold on to their money than hand it over to city council, but the Shaker citizens have confidence that their tax dollars will be put in the right place. Whether this means trees on South Woodland or new computers for classrooms, the city has been more than generous with its tax dollars.

It is important that the people in Shaker understand the good things their taxes are paying for. There are opportunities for Shaker citizens that are not available to residents of most cities and it is vital that we recognize that. Education is important to the city, but so are other things, like clear roads in the winter, public transportation and dependable utilities.

Not only does Shaker need to support the community with tax dollars, but we need communicate to other cities what can happen by spending just a little bit more money. Westlake and Bay Village could have schools comparable to Shaker's if they would be willing to dip into their pockets and pass more levies. Instead they have Great Northern Mall. With a minimal budget increase Parma could start producing Harvard grads instead of perogis, and Beachwood could set aside land for playgrounds instead of for Figgie International Headquarters.

Obviously it is comparably easier for a community like Shaker, where the average income is higher than a lot of other communities, to pay for a great school system. But the fact remains that there are a lot of people in our city that make great sacrifices to pay the heavy property taxes and pass things like levies and bond issues.

But let's not forget that the City of Cleveland, with lower average incomes, got it together this election and passed a much-needed levy.

The important thing to understand is that we live in a privileged area, where the school system is good and so is the soccer team.

The pain of paper-thin personalities

BY JESSICA WEEKS
Co-Opinion-Editor

College applications are sneaky little things.

Up until junior year, you think that they are going to be no problem at all: just rattle off the nine clubs you were president of, the the four sports you lettered in, the three musical instruments you played and the 967 hours of community service you did. You look *great* on paper, dear.

But then it hits you: you quit the golf team after freshman year, you have seven hours of community service for doing the Eco-fair in 10th grade, and the only instrument you play is a whistle-pop. How do you tell an admissions officer that just because your record is not stellar, that does not mean that you are not an interesting person who belongs at their school.

College applications do not reflect the people they represent. I know many people who do not get good grades or participate in lots of clubs or play on varsity teams, but they are still cool people who would liven up any college they went to. Qualities like a great sense of humor or a cool personality are hard to put down on paper -- but it is precisely these qualities that you look for in the people you want at your school. So maybe your greatest asset is the fact that you can send a roomful of people rolling at a party -- for a school to be fun and interesting you need people like that around.

The college application process is messed up. Not that grades and SAT's aren't important -- if you want to spend the next four years of your life with your head buried in a book, it won't matter what the people around you are like. But I am worried that a lot of us will end up at schools that only have impressive names that our parents can "casually" mention to their friends, schools that everyone says are really good but that nobody really wants to go to because the people there are too stressed and focused (do I smell Ivy League?).

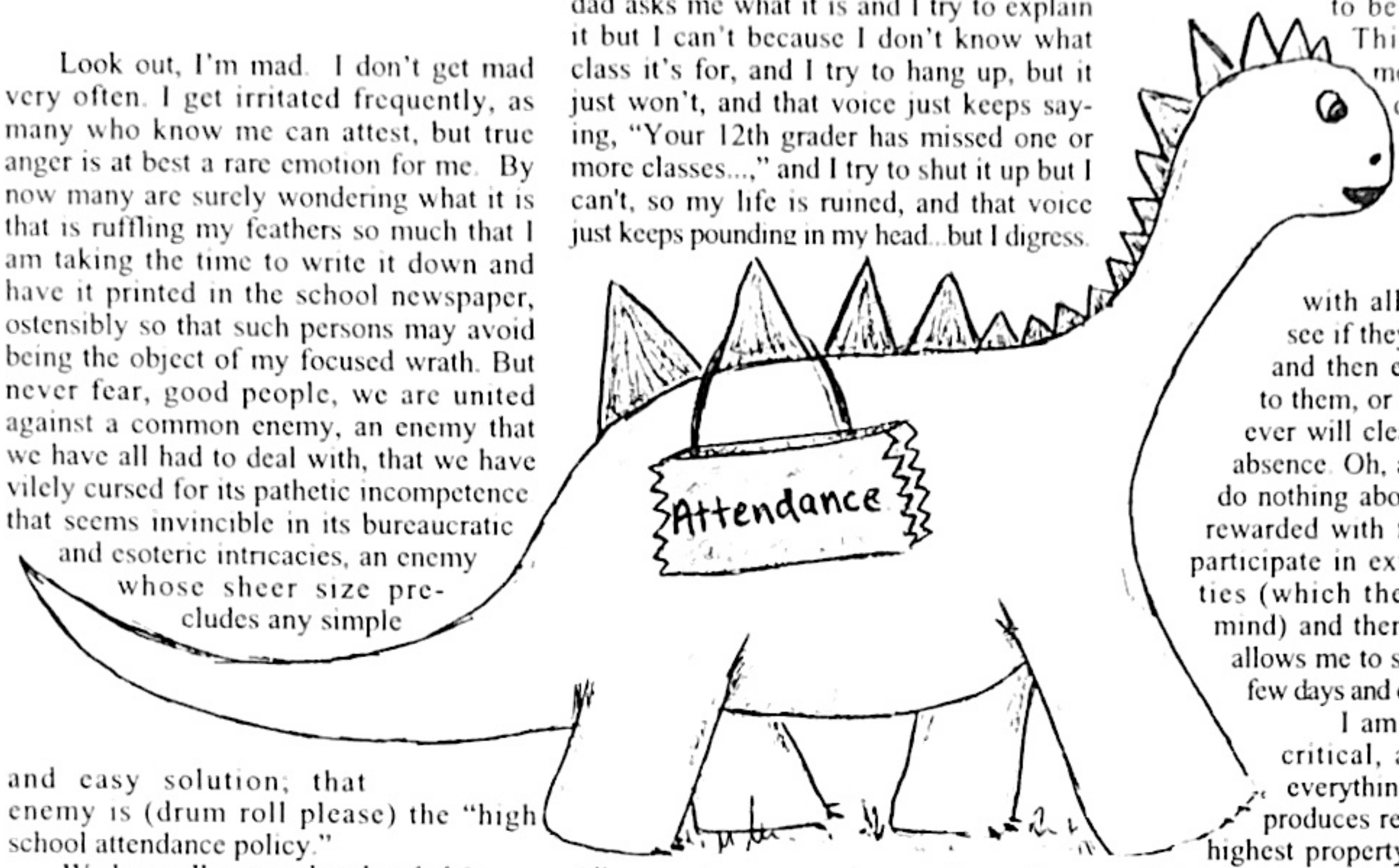
I really don't have an answer to this problem because most of us, including I, will end up trying to get into the "best" school we can. But I cross my fingers and hope that the school I end up going to will have as many crazy and neat people as Shaker does.

Cut! Student enters another round of whining about the attendance policy

BY DAVID DEMING
Staff Reporter

Look out, I'm mad. I don't get mad very often. I get irritated frequently, as many who know me can attest, but true anger is at best a rare emotion for me. By now many are surely wondering what it is that is ruffling my feathers so much that I am taking the time to write it down and have it printed in the school newspaper, ostensibly so that such persons may avoid being the object of my focused wrath. But never fear, good people, we are united against a common enemy, an enemy that we have all had to deal with, that we have vilely cursed for its pathetic incompetence that seems invincible in its bureaucratic and esoteric intricacies, an enemy whose sheer size precludes any simple and easy solution; that enemy is (drum roll please) the "high school attendance policy."

We have all gotten that dreaded 6 p.m. call, perhaps during dinner, when we are discussing responsibility with our fathers, trying to extend our curfew so we don't always have to be the first person to go home and we don't feel like little children. And then this stupid call comes and my dad asks me what it is and I try to explain it but I can't because I don't know what class it's for, and I try to hang up, but it just won't, and that voice just keeps saying, "Your 12th grader has missed one or more classes...," and I try to shut it up but I can't, so my life is ruined, and that voice just keeps pounding in my head...but I digress.



All momentary rage and personal experience aside, the attendance system at our school is a bureaucratic and technical dinosaur that stands in stark contrast to the efficient way the rest of the school is run. Records of attendance are exchanged between so many different people that there are bound to be errors somewhere. This makes it all the more cumbersome and difficult to fix errors when they are found.

It is a continual annoyance to me to have to check with all of my teachers to see if they marked me absent, and then explain the situation to them, or my parents, or whoever will clear up the unexcused absence. Oh, and if I get lazy and do nothing about it, my laziness is rewarded with first the inability to participate in extracurricular activities (which theoretically I don't mind) and then suspension, which allows me to sleep until noon for a few days and catch up on Springer.

I am probably being too critical, as the school does everything else perfectly and produces results that justify the highest property taxes in the state, but I can't help nitpicking this one little issue. Call it the relentless pursuit of perfection. Or as that girl in the car commercial says, "If we all settled for good enough, would things ever really be good enough?"

Election '96: one for the gipper

Candor, virtue and b.s. elevate Election '96 to new heights

BY MARIE FRISOF
CO-Opinion Editor

November 3, 1996

Dear Jessica,

I'm writing my article for the Opinion section a bit early because I expect to be brain dead and fully incapacitated in the weeks immediately following the election. I'm mailing this to you before election day, so I would appreciate it if you could check the appropriate boxes for me before you put this article on our pages.

Thanks, your politics-weary co-editor,
Marie

Well, here we are, recovering from another brush with democracy.

I, for one, have had my faith in the continuing viability of the American democratic process renewed. The honesty and candor of the politicians running for top-dog of the free world were refreshing, especially in the face of so much misinformation and cynicism. I really enjoyed the home-townish, Rockwell-esque grass-roots attitude which defined the campaigns, as well as the clarity and conviction with which the politicians stated their beliefs.

Now that he's been elected, I'm sure that

☐ Bill Clinton
☐ Bob Dole
☐ Ross Perot

will serve the interests of

☐ the nation
☐ wealthy special interest groups
☐ welfare mothers
☐ himself

to the best of his ability.

Before the great, genteel Election of '96, my confidence in the value and relevance of American democracy was waning. In fact, although I am now a bit ashamed to admit it, I had been planning to move to Canada if

☐ Bob Dole
☐ Ross Perot
☐ Bill Clinton

won the election. I was afraid that all the money invested in his campaign fund by

☐ big business
☐ organized labor
☐ Wall Street
☐ ordinary people whose wages are being slashed as companies downsize

would skew his perception of the trials and tribulations of the average American. I do not believe that everything that is good for P.A.C.s and other lobbyists is necessarily good for the United States, and I would hate to elect a politician to office who was in any way beholden to special interest groups. But, not to worry, I feel much better now that

☐ Ross Perot
☐ Bill Clinton
☐ Bob Dole

has been elected.

The Presidential Debates stand out among the more memorable events of Election '96. Although

☐ Ross Perot
☐ Ralph Nader
☐ Harry Browne

was excluded, the debates were certainly not

☐ boring.
☐ hideously irrelevant.
☐ diminished by lack of conflicting perspectives.
☐ incredibly mind-numbing.

I especially noticed that Bill Clinton and Bob Dole always gave

☐ direct and honest
☐ evasive and inconsequential

answers to hard questions, even if the answers were likely to displease

☐ people who might actually vote.
☐ campaign donors.
☐ that #!@&* liberal press.
☐ Hillary.

If all political discussion was as forthright and as intelligent as the Presidential Debates, our problems would all have been solved years ago.

It was also a remarkably clean election. Mud-slinging and bloody-shirt-waving were marginal, if they existed at all. I really appreciated the restraint the politicians showed in not mentioning or alluding to

☐ previous wives
☐ previous mistresses
☐ war-wounds
☐ fiscal mismanagement

or exactly *who* it was that paid for this election.

Frankly, I look forward to a vital, healthy democracy for my younger siblings to participate in. With the precedent set by the Election of '96, I'm sure in the future they can look forward to

☐ more of the same.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parent decries accepting tone of article on shoplifting

To the Editor:

I felt extremely uneasy when I finished reading the article on shoplifting in your most recent issue. I actually felt a chill traveling down my spine.

This was not so much because of what the article did say, but more so because of what it didn't. Disturbingly absent was any mention of either the moral, social or legal implications of stealing. How could these have been overlooked by the quoted students, the author, and presumably the editors?

"Thou shalt not steal" is one of only a handful of beliefs upon which all of humanity agrees. This belief is held by all of the organized religions of the world, and that is saying an awful lot in itself.

Quite simply, civilized people believe that stealing is wrong.

On the social side, shoplifting affects all of us, negatively so. We all pay for the staggering losses incurred by stores due to shoplifting. They lose – we lose.

In addition, stealing is a crime, not an inconvenient little annoyance. It goes on your record, it slams doors in your face, and you can kiss many opportunities goodbye – forever.

I desperately needed to read some of this by someone, somewhere in the article. But it wasn't to be.

Instead, the article states the names of the quoted students, the items most favored to be stolen, and the stores most likely to be robbed. This detailed description of the "shoplifting experience" was chilling indeed.

Obviously, shoplifting is no big deal to lots of the students at the high school. Neither is having friends who do. Neither is knowing all about it. How else can anyone explain the printing of the names of the "knowledgeable" students?

Both the tone of the article and the absence of any discussion of the consequences belie the tactit acceptance of shoplifting as normal and acceptable behavior.

-Ursula H. Weeks, parent subscriber

Student says article is sexist

To the Editor:

Recently I perused Dave Deming's article on old music and found myself quite perturbed.

The opening statement about a woman bringing a caveman dinner at the sound of some rocks was blatantly sexist. What kind of morals are you trying to portray? The article was in the Arts and Entertainment section.

If there was a *racist* comment written by a reporter, I'm sure that would have been edited.

Any comment degrading a whole group of people based on something they have no control over should not be printed. I find no humor in sexism, racism or prejudice.

–Yuri Gottesman, Senior

Hello again!

Happy Thanksgiving! We hope you enjoy this issue. We extend our thanks to Dan Moody for drawing a cartoon for us at the last minute. Also, we apologize to Dave Deming for sort of ripping on him in the headline of his article. Sorry, Dave. We would also like to thank Scott Fuller for so selflessly posing for the picture with his article on dorks. (Although his impression of a nerd is uncanny...) Eat that turkey! -M.F. & J.W.

Fashion is our passion

All dressed up and no place to go? Try school

BY SARAH LEVIN
Staff Reporter

Some people roll right out of bed and go straight to school.

Other people dig up that old sweatshirt which has been sitting in a pile on their floor for the last three weeks and then slap on a pair of thrift store army pants.

While a vast majority of students prefer this impromptu way of dress, some students would rather take the time to look their best and dress for success in the halls of Shaker.

"I dress up because I don't like to look like a slob. I like to look presentable and nice," junior Julie Landau said.

Landau's opinion is the same as many other Shaker students. She also feels she gets more respect when she looks nice.

Sophomore Tahlia Bolden feels by dressing up for school, she is able to better define her individual style.

"I dress up because it tells everyone my style. One day a short skirt or slacks, another day baggy jeans and a shirt with boots. Dressing up one's style defines who they are. I gravitate to stores like E-Street, Gap, and J.Crew," Bolden said.

At Shaker dressy usually means clothing from stores like J.Crew, Gap, Banana Republic and Abercrombie and Fitch. Elements and E-Street offer more unique variety.

Sophomore Elizabeth Treister often wears casual, yet somewhat dressy clothes from these stores.

"Unique, yet casual is more my style. Stores like J. Crew are classy and comfortable. I get my unique clothes at E-Street and Elements. Dressing up is fun because then you don't look like anyone else," Treister said.

Freshman Heather Schubeck also enjoys looking nice for school.

"I usually shop at The Gap, Kaufmann's, Dillard's and J.Crew. I dress up because it makes me feel good to look nice when I go to school," Schubeck said.

Some students, like sophomore Raquel Williams does not pay as much attention to the stores as the quality of the clothing.

"I buy clothes at any store that has something I like. No matter what store, just any store with 'quality' clothing," Williams said.

Whether you prefer dressing up for school or would rather wear that ratty old flannel shirt, as long as you like the way you dress, anything goes.

A walk on the wild side

students cruise the halls with alternative style

BY SARAH LEVIN
Staff Reporter

According to junior Todd Martin, the idea of "alternative" has changed over the past few years.

"Alternative is any kid who thinks he or she is different. It has become more mainstream. It's not even really alternative anymore," Martin said.

At Shaker, alternative usually refers to those students who choose to stand out and wear unique clothes. Some students, like freshman Rachel Smith get their clothes at thrift stores.

"I dress this way just because I do. I get my clothes at Unique Thrift Store," Smith said.

Freshman Felipe Amunategui also gets his clothes from thrift stores as well as other people.

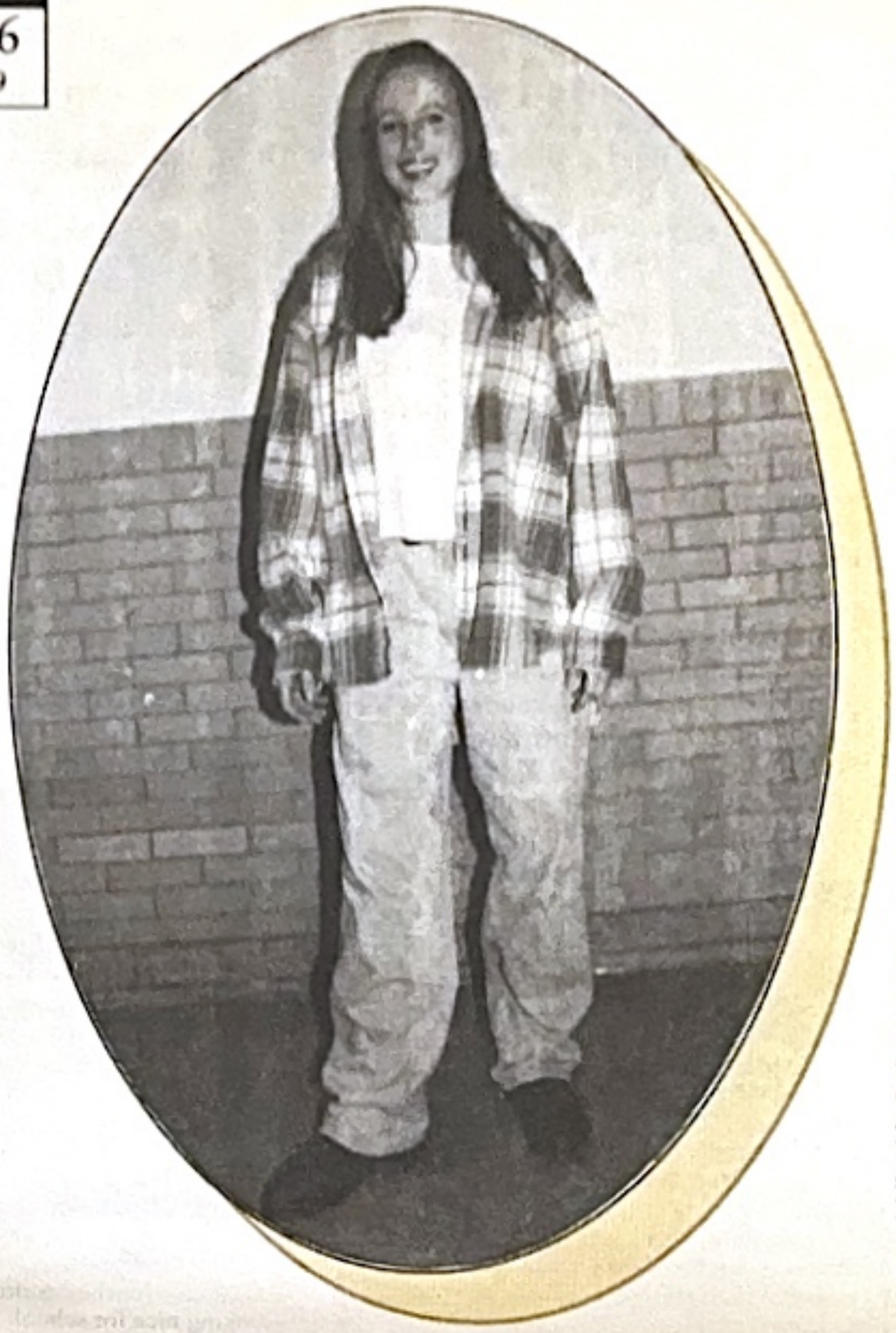
Amunategui said that he often gets positive and negative reactions from his classmates.

"I get reactions millions of times, but I don't know why. I mean, I don't mind. I'm getting noticed in some way, right? I don't care if it is positive or negative," Amunategui said.

Other "alternative" dressers can be found wearing vinyl bellbottoms or platform shoes, like sophomore Nick Burns.

"I got suspended for wearing my favorite bellbottoms because they have a hole in an inappropriate place," Burns said. "I'm in a band called Glass Cat and for that I wear silver vinyl pants."

To most, alternative is creating your own style and just being unique.



Relaxing in the halls: Shaker students go casual

BY JENNI JONES
Staff Reporter

They come to school in jeans and a flannel, or maybe a warm-up suit and tennis shoes, or perhaps corduroys and a tee shirt. While all of these outfits differ in one aspect or another, one basic theme runs through them all: comfort.

Casual is the category most students at the high school fall into. A little more laid back and relaxed than others, people who dress casually usually stick to the basics. Casual dressers tend to wear what makes them feel at ease.

Senior Jill Webster believes many looks can achieve a sense of comfort for her.

"I have days when I have no care for what I look like and basically just dress for comfort. One day I may feel like putting on my favorite pair of bell bottom jeans and a sweater, while other days I may feel like wearing a dress or a skirt and a tee-shirt," Webster said. "It all depends on how I'm feeling when I get out of bed."

To help achieve a casual look people shop at Rave, DEB, The Gap, Old Navy, Dillard's, outlet stores and Express. These stores also exhibit a wide range of price options.

Sophomore Kia Preston owns a wide variety of dress styles and feels that it shows what a complex person she is.

"I think that clothes express what a person feels like and that determines individual style," Preston said.

Other people such as sophomore Robin Johnson feel that people's clothes are an extension of their feelings.

"I see myself as spontaneous, so I wear brighter clothes, shiny stuff and no sweaters. I guess I'm happy-go-lucky, not 'partyish,' but sociable," Johnson said.

Sophomore David Kent said dressing casually enables him to fit in within a crowd. It allows him to blend in, and not draw attention to himself. Kent dresses comfortably, but doesn't wear anything flashy, sticking mostly to dark colors. He doesn't want to stand out, but he likes to look nice.

Students may feel dressing casually permits them to dress comfortably, define their personality, or blend into a crowd. But whatever you do, make sure you wear something.

Hip hop hooray!

BY JENNI JONES
Staff Reporter

The pieces can be bought at Dillard's, Kaufmann's or other stores, but the look is created by the individual. Hip-hop is a form of self-expression. It cannot be made by robots in a factory. It is created in the minds of the people who wear it, according to junior Monice Baratt.

Many people in Shaker dress with a hip-hop style. Dillard's, Kaufmann's, The Gap, J.Crew, Express, Rave and stores that carry Tommy Hilfiliger are where students shop to find this funky style.

Senior Andrew Long said the clothing he wears reflects his personality.

"My clothes make me appear the way I want to be seen by people. They express my feelings," Long said.

Sophomore Nichole Kirtley also uses her clothes to express the type of mood she is in.

"If I feel carefree, that's the way that I dress. You can tell the type of mood that I'm in by what I wear," Kirtley said.

Hip hop is not a style for people who follow the crowd, according to Baratt. Most people who dress in this style do not just wear clothes because it is what everyone else is wearing. They wear it because they like it themselves, no matter what anyone else believes.

Baratt thinks it is nice when people give you a compliment that makes you want to wear the same type of clothing again, but ultimately she wears what she wants to no matter what.

What determines a person's style is largely up to the individual. For instance, Long thinks that the way a person looks at the world will determine their style.

Baratt, however, believes that a lot of time people are influenced by television, what is defined as being "in" and what other people think of them.

Stepping out with style: Move over *Seventeen*. Only Centerpiece can show you Shaker style

- In the top left-hand corner, juniors Jessica Kent, Tyleah Brown and sophomore Quiana Smith are pictured. Kent and Brown are both wearing skirts with high heels and Smith is showing off in her khakis. These are examples of those who choose to dress up at school.
- In the bottom left-hand corner is junior Elaina Anthes and her alternative style. The short hair and eyebrow ring are just two characteristic of this "anything goes" type of dress.
- Look out Kate Moss, here comes senior Jenny Mulligan! In the top right-hand corner, Mulligan models the traditional blue jeans and flannel shirt ensemble that can be seen all over the halls of Shaker. Topping off the outfit with Doc Marten's boot, this look screams casual from head to toe.
- VOGUE! In the bottom right-hand corner, senior Ahryn Clayton-Tolley strikes a pose for the camera. Modeling a sleek retro shirt and jeans, Clayton-Tolley illustrates trendy hip-hop fashion.

Shakerite Photos by Iahn Gonsenhauser

Top 10 Albums of the 80's

1. Michael Jackson- *Thriller* **2.** Bruce Springsteen- *Born in the U.S.A.* **3.** Sountrack- *Dirty Dancing* **4.** Prince and the Revolution- *Purple Rain Soundtrack* **5.** Lionel Richie- *Can't Slow Down* **6.** Whitney Houston- *Whitney Houston* **7.** Def Leppard- *Hysteria* **8.** Bon Jovi- *Slippery When Wet* **9.** Guns N' Roses- *Appetite for Destruction* **10.** Pink Floyd- *The Wall*

Shakerite Source: The Top Ten of Everything 1996

R&R says thanks but no thanks

BY NED SACKMAN
Co-A&E Editor

In the festive light of the coming holiday season all of Shaker is basking in a warm holiday glow. In sharp contrast; this month's *Rants and Raves* will focus not on the great things in this world, but on what's bad, and in most cases, annoying.

The Bank- Society, Ohio Savings, it doesn't matter; all banks follow a couple of rules to make sure that a routine visit becomes painfully trying. First of all, they're never open, ever. They have set up a schedule where it is hopeless for anyone who has something like school or a job during the day to ever get in. They also have a stupid rule about which counters they keep open, and if you're at the wrong counter you might as well be locked in the vault because they are not going to pay any attention to you. If you know where your local bank is, I encourage you to rob it. Just kidding, kiddies.

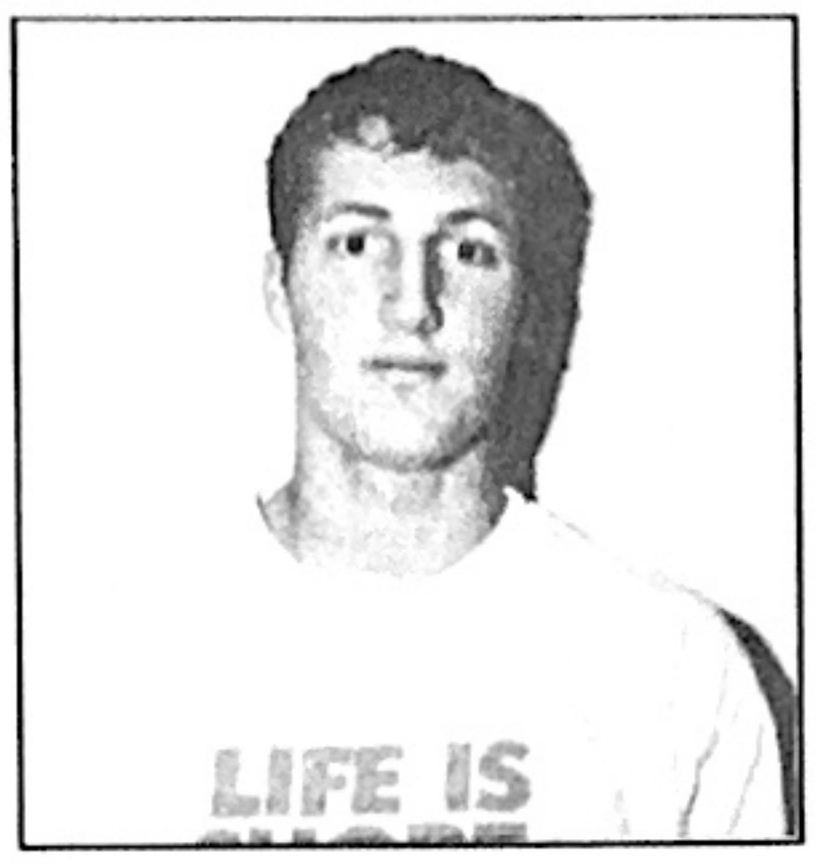
Tapered leg jeans- Who wears these? No matter who you are, what age, or what you look like, it is not the eighties, and it is not cool to wear black stonewashed ballbusters.

Pennies- If you really think about it, pennies are worthless. You can't buy anything for five cents anymore, and nobody has room in their pockets to carry around 100 pennies to buy a soda, unless they are wearing tapered leg jeans.

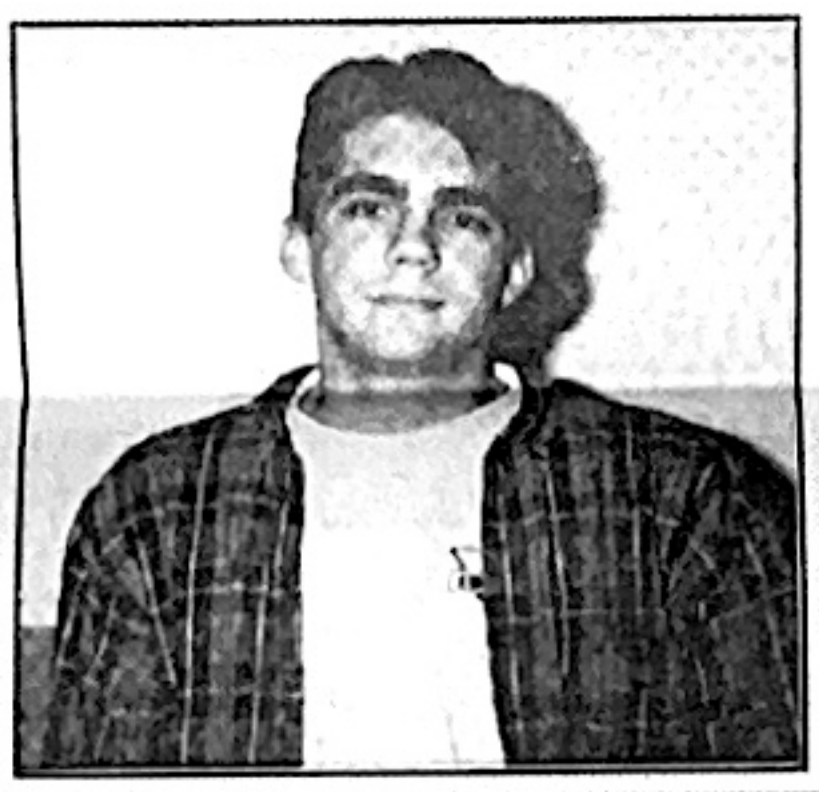
Bottled water- When did everyone start getting so thirsty? You can't go anywhere anymore without seeing somebody who has to carry around their personal bottle of Evian.

The Goo Goo Dolls- They have a stupid name, their bass player looks like a troggle, and anyone who likes them now will regret it when they get older.

Whoopi Goldberg- It is guaranteed that any movie she is in is going to suck. No matter how I hungry I was, I still wouldn't want her to try to raise money for me every year in HBO's "Comic Relief."



RANTS
&
Raves



BY BRENDAN MASINI
Co-A&E Editor

Deviating from the normal celebration of cherishable items, this month's *Rant's and Raves* are a collection of things, situations or concepts that are often frustrating or even downright infuriating. This negative attitude towards the subject matter does not reflect the views of the Shakerite staff. I am a trained professional. And kids, please do not try this at home without adult supervision.

Ping Pong- I love this game. The problem arises when you are ready to play but can't find any balls to play with. It can make you resort to violence. A similar phenomenon occurs when a fooseball ball is missing, or when the six of spades is missing from a deck of cards.

Romeo and Juliet- I really don't think that Shakespeare was meant for the 20th century. If thou knowest of someone who talketh like this, telleth them to jumpeth off of yon bridge.

Wayne's World 2- Few things are as bad as a poorly made sequel to a good movie. This one just didn't live up to the standard. Party on? They shouldn't have.

Snow- You may say that snowflakes are pretty and trees covered in snow are beautiful, but when you have to pick up a shovel, snow sucks.

Fast food- My complaint is not really with fast food, but fast food with hair in it. I said a Whopper with fries, not a Whopper with your greasy naps on it.

CD players- Few things cause as much anger as when your CD player skips in the middle of your favorite song.

Mouth noises- Laying down a beat should be left up to synthesisers and professionals. A series of grunts and squeaks with odd gutteral noises is not adequate to flow.

Illiteracy- Illiteracy is no joke in this day and age, and it makes it really hard to do my homework.

What's Goin' On?

This guide should help you to steer clear of drifted snow and find yourself jammin' the night away at your favorite shows.

❦**Ekoostik Hookah-** The Odeon, Nov. 28

❦**Republica-** Peabody's Down Under, Nov 30

❦**Social Distortion-** The Agora, Dec. 1

❦**The Deftones-** The Odeon, Dec. 2

❦**They Might Be Giants-** The Agora, Dec. 4

❦**Goldfinger-** Peabody's Down Under, Dec. 5

❦**Mazzy Star-** The Odeon, Dec. 6

❦**Coolio-** KSU MAC Center, Dec 8

❦**Rusted Root-** CSU Convocation Center, Dec. 29

Ticket Information is availible from ticketmaster at 241-5555

Murder mystery is a thrilling diversion for students

BY RACHEL ZINN
Co-Feature Editor

On Friday afternoon the possibilities seem endless. A whole weekend of excitement, action and drama lies ahead.

Then reality sets in. Weekends can be as monotonous as school days. What is there to do that is different? This season,The Playhouse Square Center's "Shear Madness" offers an answer.

"Shear Madness" is a murder mystery play set in a trendy unisex hair salon. The dialogue between the stereotypical but amusing characters is quick and entertaining, but the real fun begins after the first act.

The first part of the play is simply a scene which ends in murder. Then, the lights go up and the police inspector character appeals to the audience for help in catching the murderer. Audience members yell out accusations and question the suspects, and the play ends after the audience votes on the culprit and the actors complete the play to reveal the guilty party.

The play has a hefty $20 price tag, so it may be best to ask your parents if they will take you and a few friends. They will probably be thrilled that you want to go downtown to see a play.

If you get the chance, try to catch this show. "Shear Madness" is an afternoon of fun and laughs, provided you are willing to get into the experience.

Action over message

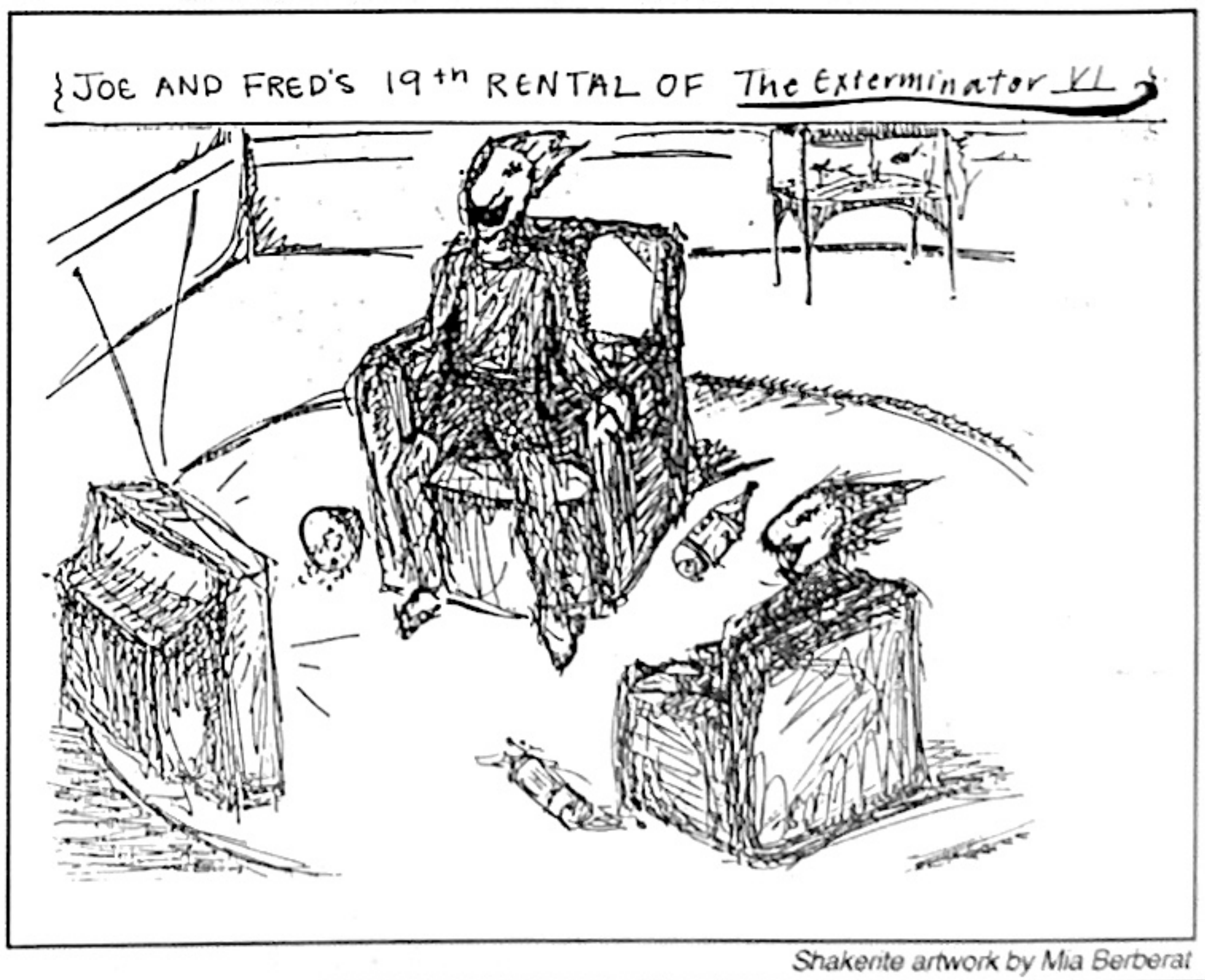
BY DAVID DEMING
Staff Reporter

I could never be a movie critic. They watch films meticulously and rate them based on the quality of acting, artistic value, ingenuity in directing and a host of other categories. All those seem secondary to me; my chief concern is whether or not I was entertained. The acting could be wooden, the storyline contrived and the plot predictable, but if I enjoyed the movie while I was watching it, I really and truly could care less.

Every action movie ever made has the same plot (rescue innocent people from evil terrorists), the same characters (strong, brave, resourceful warrior against conniving, sniveling antagonist) and the same explosions, but as long as it moves so quickly and excitingly that we have no time to ponder this phenomenon until the trip home, we have been entertained. I can tell you that *Terminator 2* was a predictable, cookie-cutter, action movie snoozer, but don't call me a hypocrite when I watch it on the edge of my seat.

I suppose this is why I dislike movies that try to teach a lesson, or movies that have a gritty, realistic, art nouveau style. I'm just not entertained by that. There is plenty of realism, and morality, and depression, and melodrama every day of my life, everywhere I go. If I wanted to be taught a lesson on life, there are plenty of people who would be happy to oblige. If I wanted to be depressed, a simple walk around the block and a glimpse into other people's lives would suffice.

A movie is not something that I want or expect to emulate real life. Every new technology is aimed at simulating our own existence. Let's keep movies as a sanctuary from everyday life, unless we want Arnold Schwartzenegger to experience catharsis from the turmoil of having to take the life of T-1000.


{JOE AND FRED'S 19th RENTAL OF The Exterminator VI}

Shakerite artwork by Mia Berberat

Romeo and Juliet join a gang

BY JESSICA WEEKS

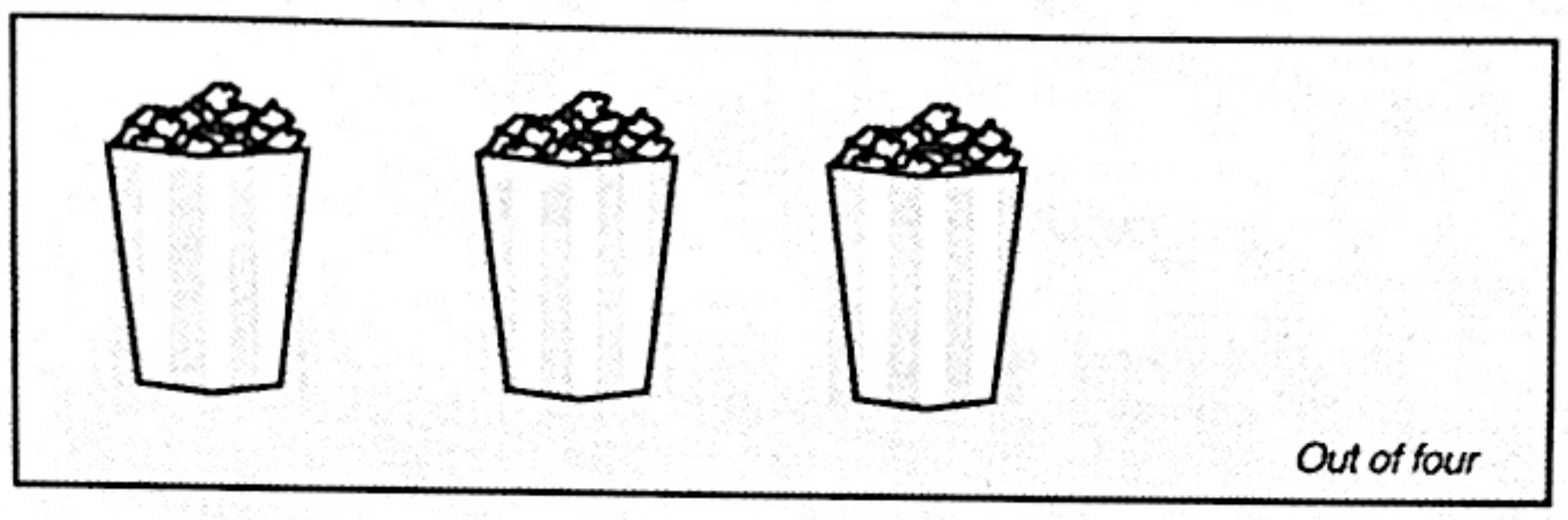
Co-Opinion Editor

Leonardo DiCaprio is fine. That fact alone would make the film *Romeo and Juliet* worth seeing. But aside from Romeo's, uh, visual appeal, the contemporary version of the Shakespearean classic is still a good movie.

Claire Danes of "My So-Called Life" TV fame plays across DiCaprio as Juliet (it's a tough life, huh Claire). In this hip, bloody, modern rendition of a classic the pair do a great job with Shakespeare's script, rattling off his confusing verse in American accents without completely butchering the language. Although the combination of old-fashioned speech and dizzying action is slightly jarring at first, the tragic beauty of a timeless love story shines through when Romeo and Juliet meet in the unforgettable "fish-tank scene."

Set in fictional "Verona Beach," the movie takes place in modern-day America with the younger members of the two rivaling families, the Montagues and the Capulets, depicted as gun-slinging gang members with designer clothes. The only thing wrong with this new setting is that it makes the whirlwind romance of "star-crossed" lovers seem slightly unlikely. In this age of AIDS and abstinence we're just not used to seeing two people fall in love and commit to each other in the space of two days. Not that it isn't sweet, it's just that you have to blink when Romeo tells Juliet he loves her after knowing her for half an hour. Aside from this small flaw, the movie is a quality viewing experience. Even if the movie wasn't good, which it is, I would strongly recommend seeing this movie.

Leonardo DiCaprio is fine.



Historic thriller, *Collins*, delivers

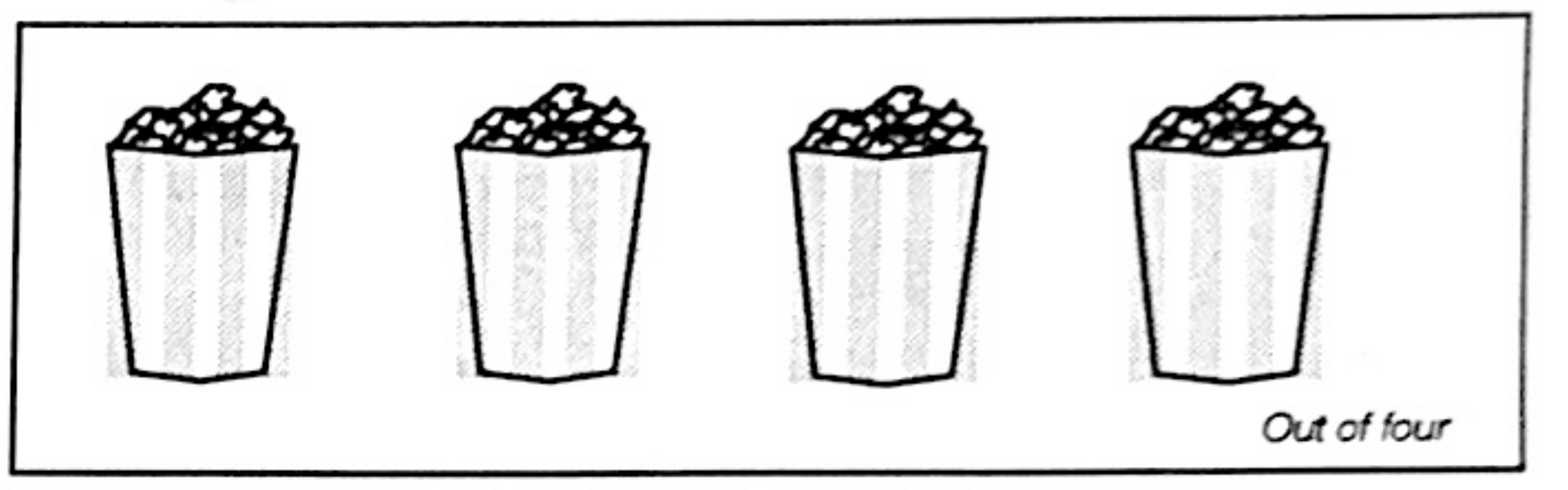
BY NED SACKMAN

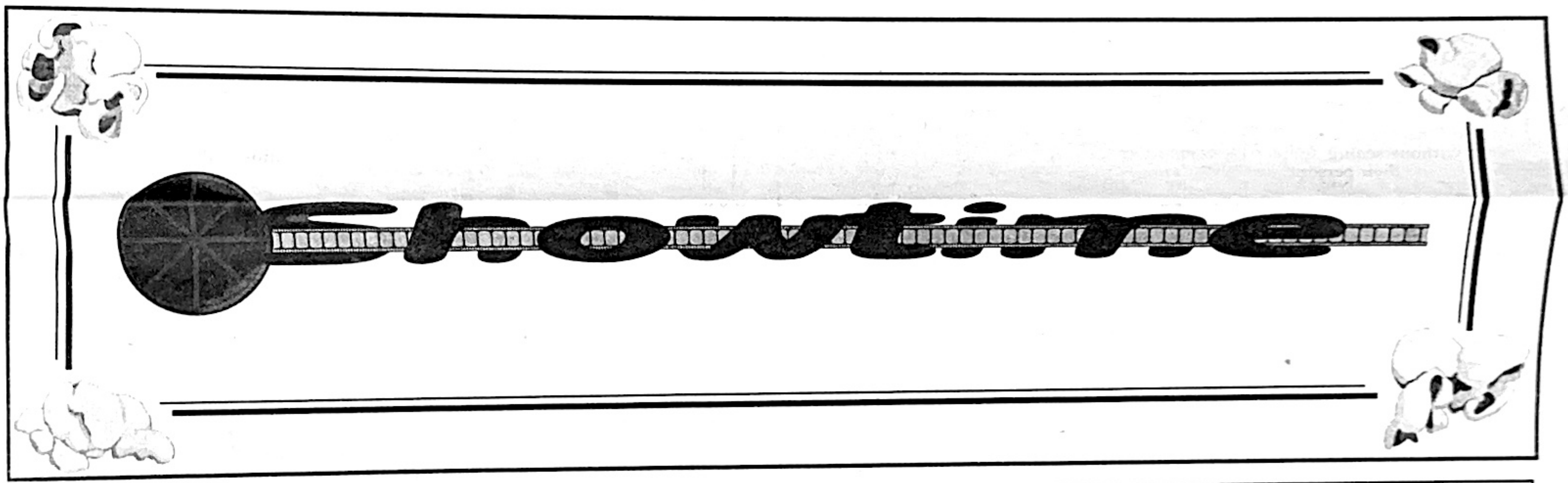
Co-A&E Editor

Film director Neil Jordan has always had a flair for controversy. In *The Crying Game* he shocked censors with the gender-bending escapades of a botched IRA kidnapping, and in *Interview with the Vampire* he cast Hollywood's most hallowed hunks in a homoerotic bloodbath. In *Michael Collins* he returns to Ireland to tell the story of the most controversial figure in IRA history.

Liam Neeson plays the title character as part of an ensemble cast that also includes Aidan Quinn and Julia Roberts. The film traces the rise and fall of Collins over a rocky six year period of fighting and diplomacy between Ireland and England during World War I. Jordan sticks to the history as he includes everything from the infamous "North-South" Treaty to Bloody Sunday. Between the bloodshed Collins clashes with Eamon D'Valeera, played with conniving malice by Alan Rickman, and fights with longtime friend Harry Boland (Quinn) over love interest Kitty Kiernan (Roberts).

The movie has the epic and convoluted feel of the time it is covering, as Jordan seamlessly edits drama and action together. In the movie's most powerful scenes, Jordan uses a parallel action technique reminiscent of Francis Ford Coppola's directing in *The Godfather*. Both Neeson and Quinn deliver their performances with gutsy panache, while Roberts plays her character with fresh innocence. The only criticism is that even at two-and-a-half hours the movie tends to gloss over events in favor of action. Other than that, Jordan successfully adapts this exhilarating period of Irish history to the silver screen.





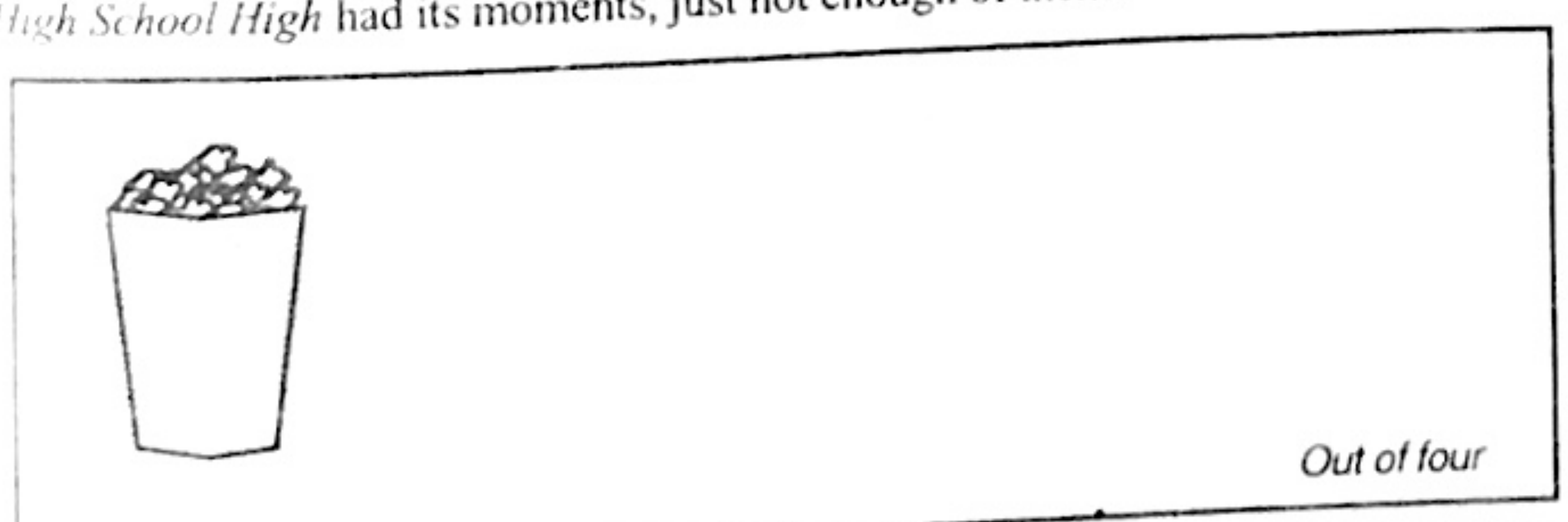
High School High hits low

BY SCOTT FULLER

Co-Editor-in-Chief

I'd like to be able to tell you who the director of *High School High* is, but when I went to look it up in a recent issue of the *Friday!* section of *The Plain Dealer*, hardly any trace of the movie was to be found. There was no picture of it in the ads, no review of it in with the others, and it was showing at only a select few theaters. Holy moley, I thought; it must have been out for only a few weeks and already it has met its gruesome, miserable movie-death. This seemed to me to be a tad early for it to hit the $2 joints. Yet, as I recalled the evening I went to go see it, I suddenly understood why its moment on the big screen was so fleeting. To be sure, *High School High* was one flop of a film.

Even if I knew the clown who directed this movie, certainly all I'd say is that he stinks anyway. The movie poster outside the theater read: "From the directors who brought you *The Naked Gun*" (or was it from the producers...?). In any event, this proclamation got my hopes up, and it elevated my expectations for the film, because as many of you may already be aware, *The Naked Gun* was a hilarious flick. I soon found that to compare this new movie itself to *The Naked Gun* was doing Leslie Nielsen and whoever else made it an outstanding film a tremendous disservice. However, it is not at all unfair to compare Jon Lovitz, the star of *High School High*, with Nielsen because they are similar actors, each with superb comedic talent. Lovitz and Nielsen both play the innocent, goofy, absent-minded role well, and each can pull off ridiculous puns and silly jokes with equally magnificent zip. What really sets these two apart, however, is the quality of the writing that they have to work with. While Nielsen zings off funny line after funny line, Lovitz struggles as best he can through duds that simply nobody is going to laugh at. *High School High* had its moments, just not enough of them.



A movie worth *Ransom* to see

BY MILES BERGER

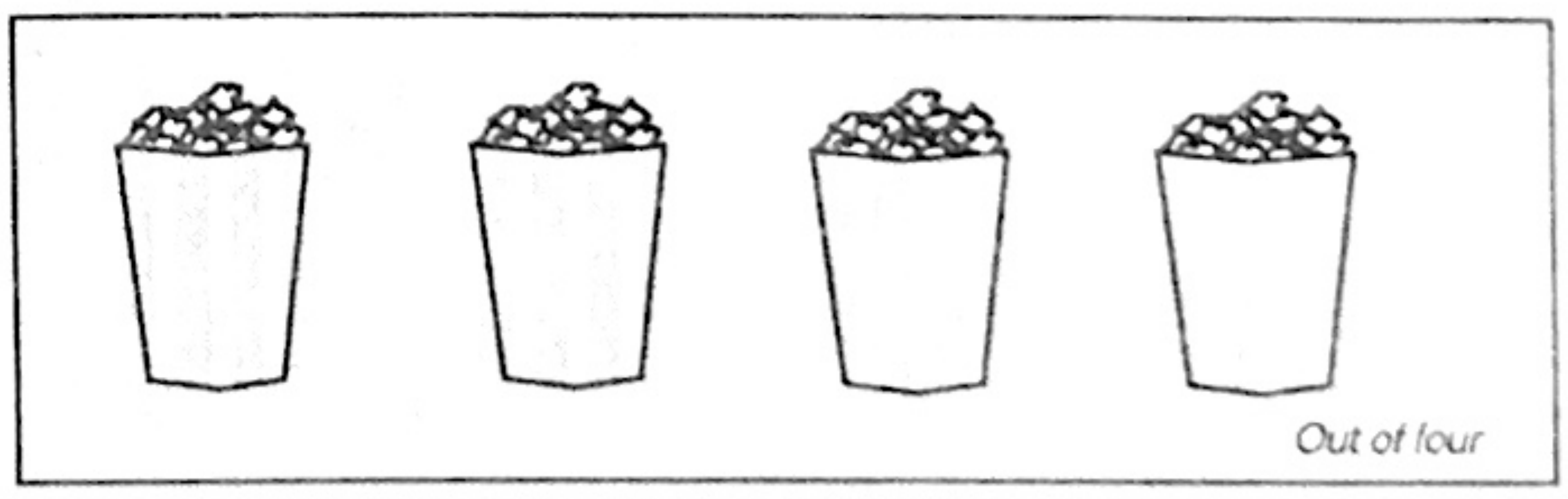
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Some movies have big-name stars. Others have excellent directing. Still others have outstanding plots. But the movie that has all of these qualities is very rare. *Ransom* is one of these movies.

Ransom may seem like a simple, run-of-the-mill action movie about a rich New York CEO whose son gets kidnapped for a two million dollar ransom. But, the directing of Ron Howard and the acting of the stellar cast (Mel Gibson, Rene Russo, Gary Sinise) elevate this simple plot to an epic battle between the father (Gibson) and the kidnapper (Sinise).

When you are watching *Ransom*, sitting on the edge of your seat filled with suspense, it is easy to miss some of the movie's finer qualities. For instance, in the scene where Sinise embraces his girlfriend and tells her not to worry about getting caught, the red light of a lamp shines on his face, but it does not hit his girlfriend at all. This devilish red light parallels the evil intentions of Sinise, and it contrasts with the pale human skin tone and moral conscience of his girlfriend.

This example shows the excellence of *Ransom*: like any great work of art, it can be appreciated from multiple perspectives. It is a suspense-filled thriller, but it also has the epic qualities of a great work of literature. The camera work and facial expressions of the actors combine to capture the emotions of the characters. When Gibson is running around in a daze searching for his son you not only see the hurt and shock in his face, but the swirling camera angles make you feel dazed and disoriented with him. *Ransom* excels at weaving these diverse qualities into a brilliant masterpiece, and you should go see it. Now.

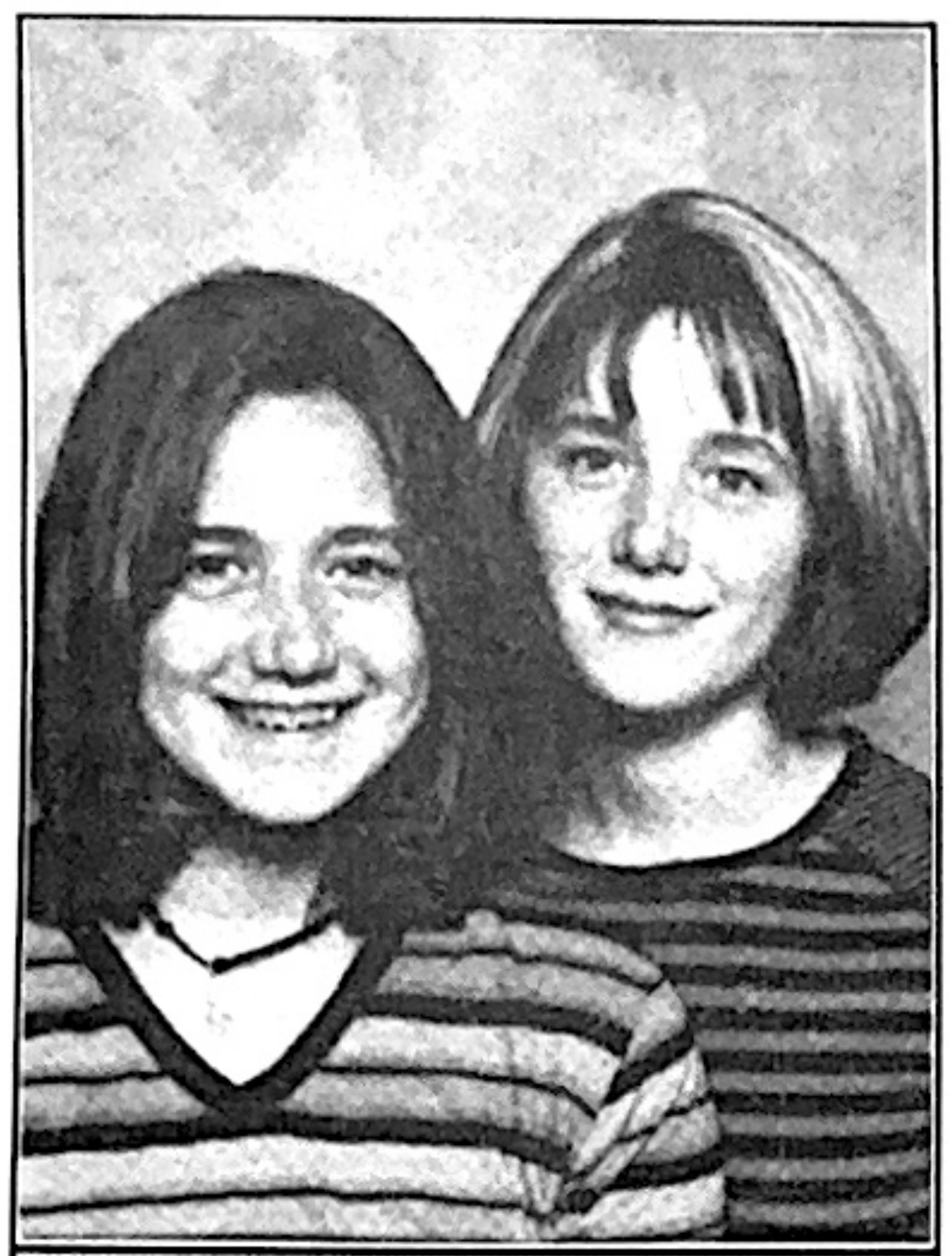


Excerpts from Jay Leno's Headlines series

"Jail crowding caused by increase in criminals, new study concludes"
"Mimes banned for abusive language" (from *The Plain Dealer*)
"University of Michigan mulls neutering its freshmen"
"Very good year for poor people"
"Blind man robs bank, can't find way out"
"Wife sues over lost brain"
"Suicide may hasten death"
"Kids must be shot by Monday'

Beamer float to appear in Bicentennial bash

BY ANNA DALEY
Staff Reporter



Congratulations! Allison and Becky Beamer designed a float that won $250 from the Cleveland Bicentennial Committee. Their float will appear in the Bicentennial parade.

Shakerite photo courtesy of Allison Beamer

Designing a float turned out to be more than just an art class project for Allison and Becky Beamer.

"When Mr. Hoffman gave us the assignment for art class to design a float for the Cleveland Bicentennial Parade, we had absolutely no idea what we were getting into," Allison said.

Becky and Allison won $250 when the Cleveland Bicentennial Committee chose their float design as the winner of their contest.

The assignment given last year required students to design a float with one of three themes: Christmas, Shaker Square, the Cleveland Bicentennial, or any combination of the three.

The floats had to be drawn with top, rear, and side views. The Beamers then had to form from these views a 3-D model, graphic design teacher James Hoffman said.

"The concept was to use the theme Shaker Square through the ages, using both the Shaker period and now. We also decided to have people on it interacting with the crowd," Allison said

Unfortunately, the joy of the Beamers win became clouded when their float design was redrawn.

The twins were given the option to build the float for the Fox 8 American Legion Bicentennial Parade on November 30. Becky said they decided to build the float a few weeks ago.

A week into building the float, problems arose. The float design created by Becky and Allison had been redesigned by an employee of the parade committee.

"The float had been drastically changed until just about the only thing that is the same is the sign saying Shaker Heights High School on the front," Hoffman said.

Hoffman was also upset with the organization of the building process.

"Chris King, who is in charge of building the float with the Beamers, just didn't understand what was happening with this. She does not understand that the Beamers are just students. They don't have time for all this," Hoffman said.

Despite these complications, the building continues. The Beamers are dismayed about the change in their design, but they are still planning to build a float for the parade.

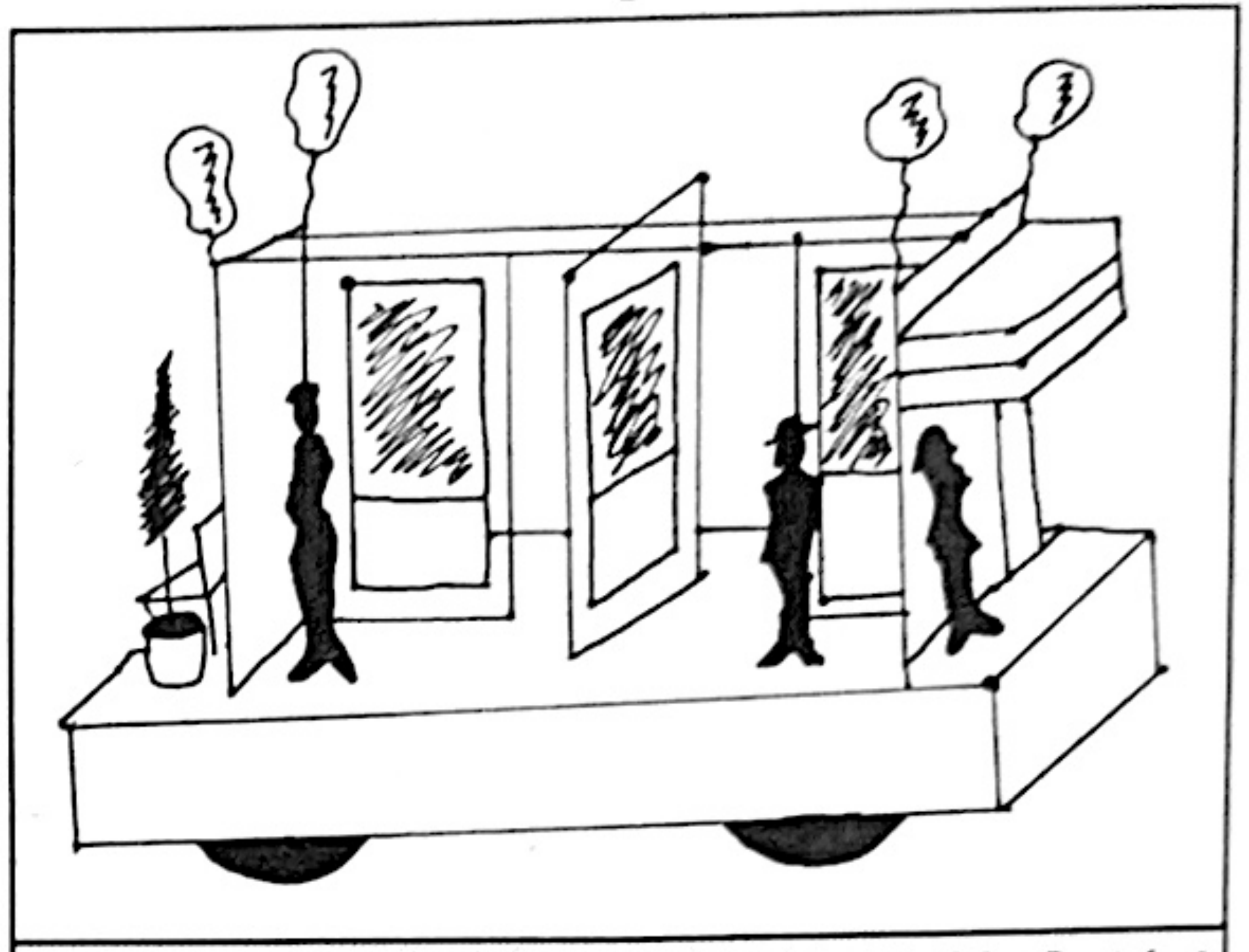
"The float is drastically changed. At first we were a little disappointed, but it is still our idea. I still really believe in it. It can still happen," Allison said.

Both twins have enjoyed the whole experience of designing and building, but Becky does have one special memory.

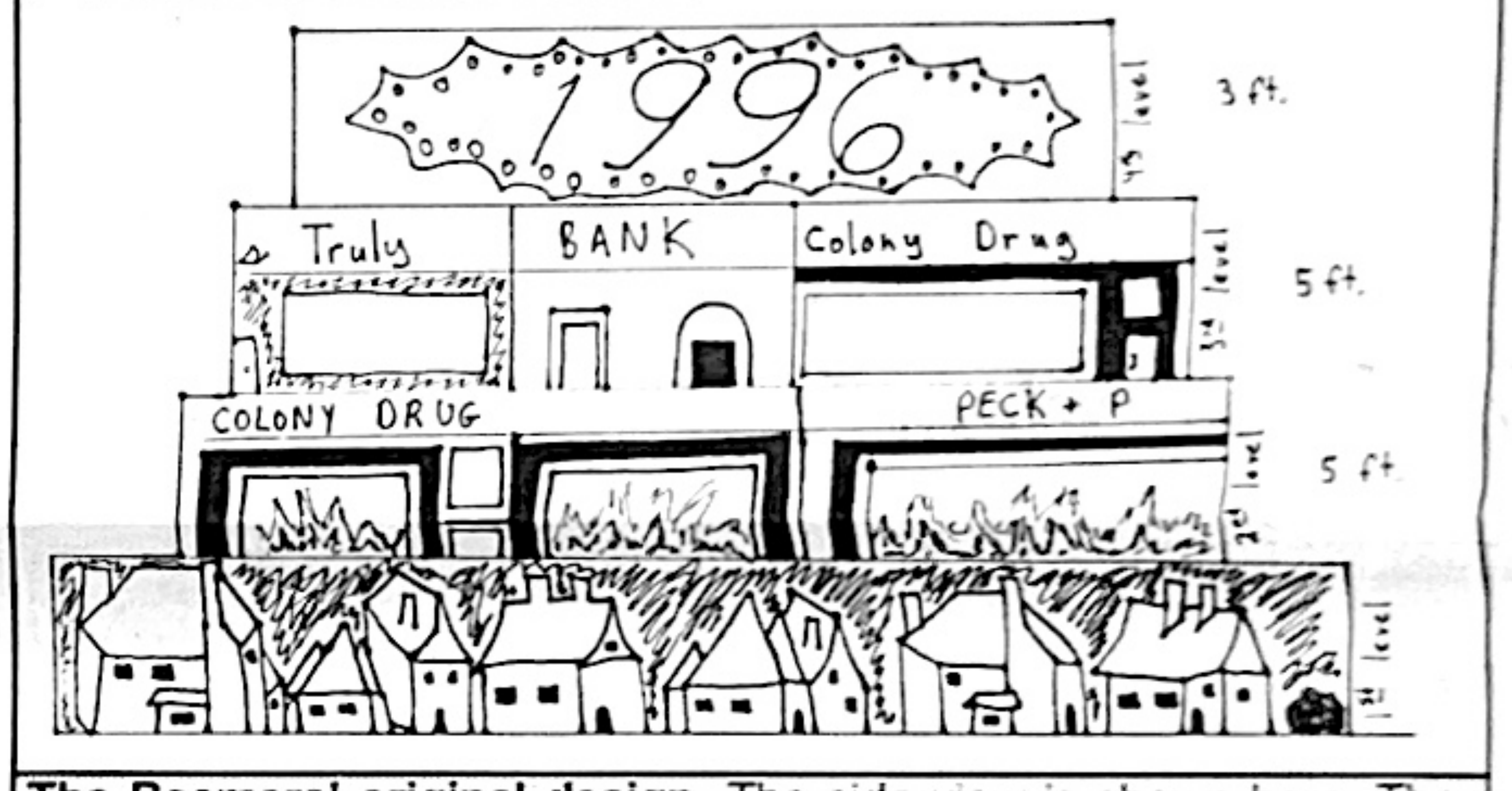
"The best part of the whole thing was probably the night before the 3-D model was due. It was about midnight and we used something that was kind of toxic if you inhaled too much of it in an enclosed area, and we had terrible ventilation. All I have to say is that we were up all night," Becky said.

The Beamers have had setbacks on their path to parade glory, but they still look forward to completing the construction of the float and seeing it in the parade.

Back to the drawing board

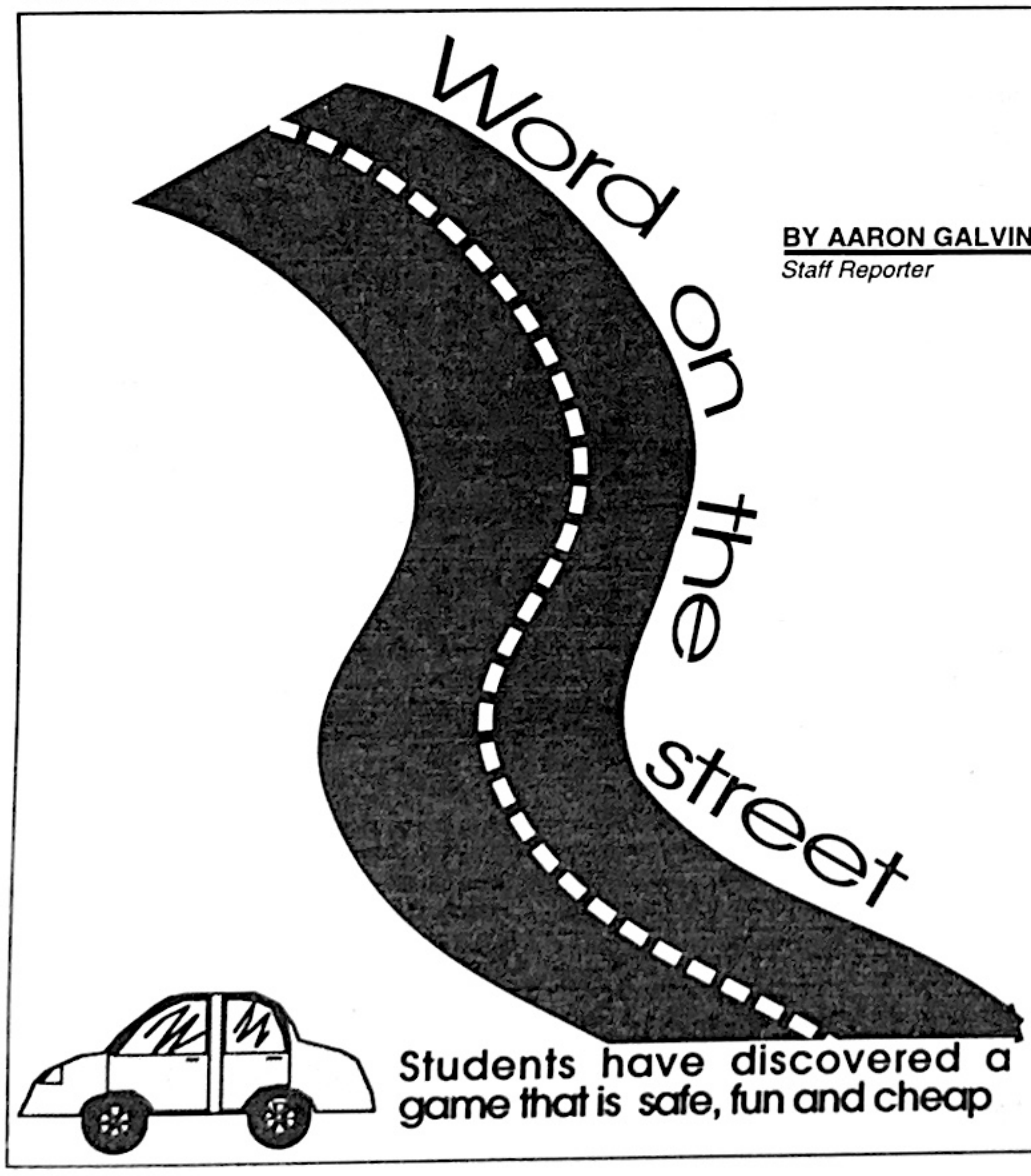


Float drawing redesigned. This is the sketchof the float that the Beamers are actually constructing to appear in the parade



The Beamers' original design. The side view is shown here. They planned a number of special effects.

	costumes	music	special effects
level 1	original Shakers	"Tis the Gift to be Simple"	chimney smoke
level 2	1950's	Elvis	fire smoke
level 3	1970's and 1980's	disco, Michael Jackson	lights
level 4	1990's	"Celebrate Good Times"	fire crackers



Students have discovered a game that is safe, fun and cheap

Running Man drives students wild

BY AARON GALVIN
Staff Reporter

Students drive around in the dark, looking for people running through the neighborhood so they can grab them and shove them into their car.

No, the mafia has not been recruiting high school kids. These students are taking part in the new "Running Man" craze.

"Running Man can be described as a combination between Capture the Flag and a scavenger hunt," senior Brent Fuller, a Running Man enthusiast, said.

The game begins at one person's house around 9 p.m. About 25 people are invited to play, who are split into "drivers" and "runners." The runners are given a map of Shaker, where flags have been hidden earlier in the day by whoever organized the game.

"Usually the runners will have partners and simply run all over Shaker trying to get the flags," Fuller said.

While the runners are scurrying to get the flags, the drivers are hard at work. Their goal is to try to catch the runners and bring them into their cars. Before the game starts, the drivers are given a list of possible places the runners will be.

The winners of the game are the runner who gets the most flags and the driver who gets the most runners.

Fuller is a dedicated fan of Running Man, and especially enjoys the physical aspects of the game.

"The best part of the game is when a driver sees a runner. He gets out of his car and chases him down. Sometimes, these chases can go on for hours," Fuller said.

Senior Sarah Kaufman also loves running around chasing her friends during a rousing game of Running Man. She said it is both fun and great exercise.

"I love Running Man. It's so exhilerating because I'm stealth," Kaufman said.

Another bonus of Running Man is that the police do not object to students playing the game.

"The police think Running Man is good, clean fun," Fuller said.

Junior Ricardo Spicer agrees that Running Man is a positive way to have fun safely and legally.

"Running Man is a new craze that has hit many Shaker students. It is an alternative to the monotonous driving around looking for parties. It gives kids a chance to have some fun and not get into trouble," said Spicer.

Winter may halt the game for now, but when the nights are warm the streets will once again be filled with dedicated Running Man participants, according to senior Mike Andrikanich.

"Running Man is a sweet game. I wish we would play it more. I am sure we will next spring," Anderkanich said.

Butterball, beware!

From calculus to camouflage. Math teacher Thomas Patrick has a passion for turkey hunting, and displays one of his kills here. Nothin' says lovin' like fresh turkey in the oven on Thanksgiving.

Shakerite photo courtesy of Thomas Patrick

You will be thankful for survival . . .

When disaster strikes

BY RACHEL ZINN

Co-Feature Editor

Granny's dentures fell in the stuffing, the turkey exploded, and the whole family got lead poisoning from that antique silverware. For some students, Thanksgivings were not an ideal time of family togetherness. They were nightmares.

Family dinner is a Thanksgiving tradition, but for sophomore Candace Hamilton one turned into a heroic rescue.

"We were just eating and all of the sudden Grandma started turning funny colors. My dad thought she was telling a joke or something, but my stepmom turned around and gave her the Heimlich manuever. A piece of food flew out across the table," Hamilton said.

Cooking catastrophes have also struck an otherwise serene household. Sophomore Kate Goheen had trouble on Thanksgiving Eve.

"My mom was cooking a huge bowl of soup and it filled our whole house up with smoke in the middle of the night. Our smoke alarms didn't go off, but we all woke up and had to evacuate," Goheen said.

Sometimes the worst food disasters come from not knowing what you are eating. Alumnus Jeremy Caldwell learned his lesson one Thanksgiving.

"My great-grandfather made Thanksgiving dinner at his house one year. We were all sitting and eating when someone looks at the turkey and asks, 'Why does the turkey have four drumsticks?' My great-grandfather got a funny look and said, 'Turkey? That's no turkey! That's raccoon like we used to cook it down South,'" Caldwell said.

Injury and illness have also plagued people during the holiday season. When sophomore Laura Bonem's father threw out his back, all of their plans were scrapped.

"Last year my dad's back went out the day before we were supposed to go to Cincinnati, so we had to stay home. We ended up cooking everything ourselves at the last minute. We were definitely rushing around, but my family is used to that," Bonem said.

> ***"My great-grandfather got a funny look and said, 'Turkey? That's no turkey! That's raccoon like we used to cook it down South.'"***
>
> ***–Jeremy Caldwell, class of '96***

Senior Matt Youngner was ill the entire Thanksgiving weekend while he was visiting relatives, but had an interesting experience on the plane ride home.

"I got real sick over Thanksgiving, and I was throwing up all the way back on the plane. It was crazy because the guy next to me was wolfing down crabcakes the whole time while I was puking into the little bags or anything else I could find. He even took my crabcake because I was too sick to eat it," Youngner said.

These holidays were not perfect, but there is no question that these students will have Thanksgivings to remember.

Giving thanks by giving back

Students celebrate holiday season by helping others in the community

BY TOBY BULLOFF

Co-Feature Editor

The Salvation Army's slogan: "sharing s caring" has a special meaning for some students during the holidays.

For the past three years, junior Leah Bauer has anonymously adopted the same family for Christmas through the Salvation Army's program. This year Bauer is sponsoring a senior citizen.

Bauer said her senior citizen's wish list consists of bare necessities: light bulbs, stamps, towels, boots and sweatsuits. Food is greatly appreciated, but the senior has no teeth and can only eat canned food. Bauer said that this situation is especially depressing.

"It would be embarassing for him to see us. The anonymity of the program makes it special," Bauer said.

Junior Harry Hanson has helped out for many years at New Life, a transitional housing center in Cleveland. He babysits children every other Saturday morning. Hanson has witnessed the growth of New Life from small and low key to successful and organized, Hanson said.

Hanson has seen many rewards from working with underprivileged children.

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. If I can at least affect some people doing my insignificant work, it's all worth it," Hanson said.

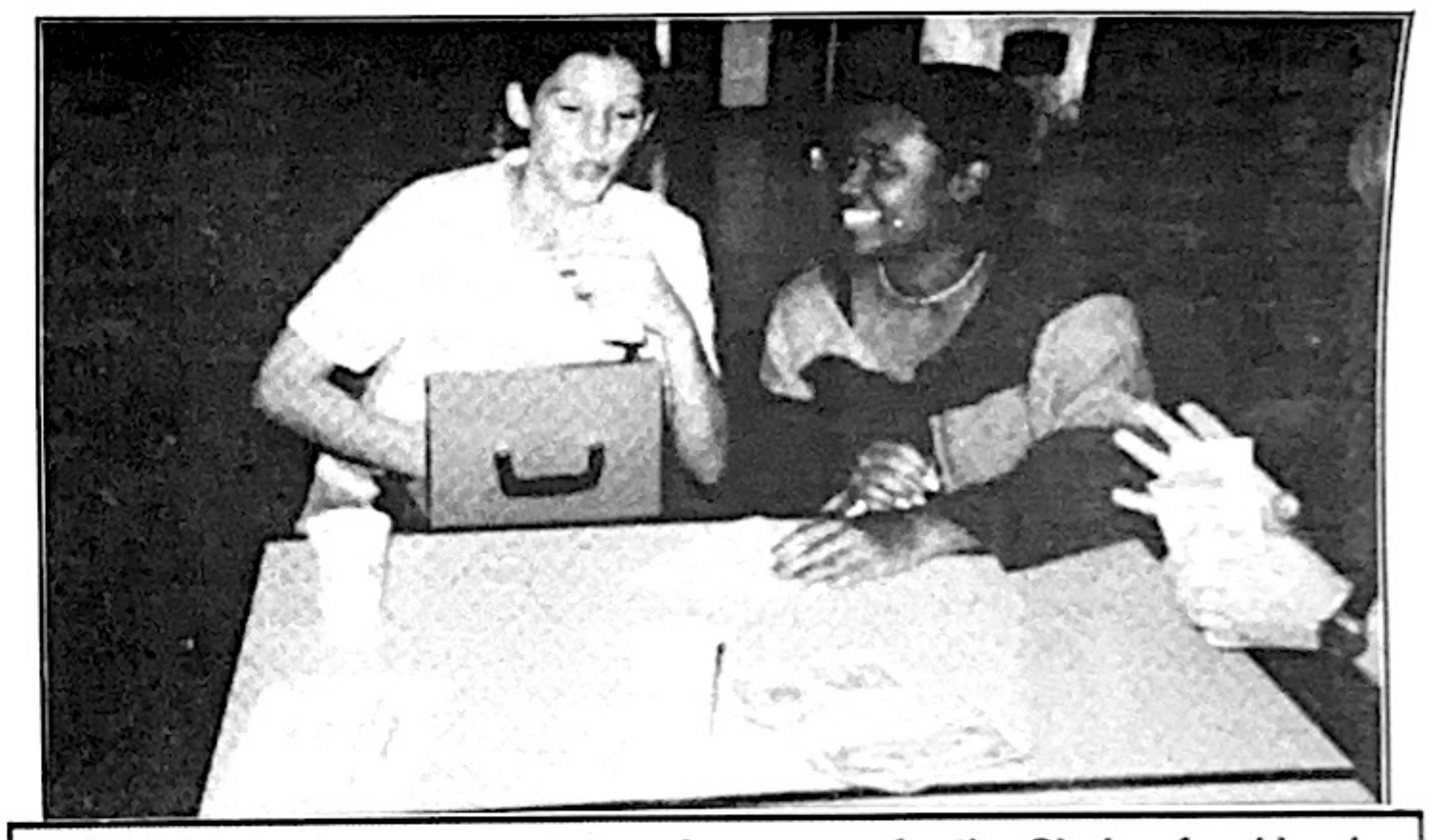
Bauer said there are many personal rewards that come from helping people.

"The whole experience is very satisfying. However, it is so sad to think that out of the 400 needy families in the program, only 40 actually get sponsored," Bauer said.

Nancy Neman of the Cleveland Food Bank has appreciated the help of Shaker students. Volunteer jobs consist of sorting and packing non-perishable food for delivery to hundreds of organizations such as the Salvation Army and Harvest for Hunger.

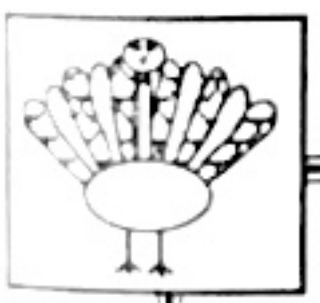
The two food warehouses can accomodate up to 60 volunteers. Volunteers work at least two hours at a time either packing or checking expiration dates at the Product Recovery Center on Saturdays from 8-12 a.m., according to Neman.

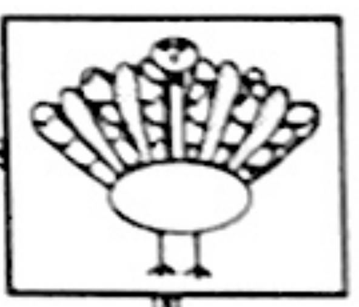
"I especially like for students to make an ongoing commitment after the initial 20-minute orientation because people are still hungry in January and March," Neman said.



Youth Ending Hunger members raise money for the Shaker food bank. The Nov. 5 spaghetti dinner raised over $500.

Shakerite Photo courtesy of Y.E.H.





Community service opportunities

❶ **Salvation Army Adopt A Family Program**
Dec. 9-13 at E. 22nd St. Headquarters
Helping organize gifts for adopted families and senior citizens, or adopting yourself
call Bernadette Walsh: 861-8151

❷ **Cleveland Food Bank**
1557 E. 22nd St. Cleveland
call 696-6007 for numerous volunteer jobs

❸ **St. Lukes Hospital Holiday Lighting**
Dec. 5, 12-4:30 pm at St. Lukes 11311 Shaker Blvd.
Contact Gene Collovecchio: 368-7778 noon-4:30

❹ **Shaker Hts. Community Church Hunger Center**
20120 Lomond Blvd.
to donate money: 561-8358
to donate food call Laura Oakley: 283-9451
to volunteer time call Trudy Williams: 752-8203

❺ **Karrington House**
16500 Chagrin Blvd.
call 751-0930 for possible jobs throughout the season

❻ **Salvation Army Clothing Distribution**
Dec. 9-13 at NE Ohio Divisional Headquarters: 2507 E. 22nd St. Cleveland
Loading coats, bagging, and distributing. Leftovers go to Cleveland Public Schools
call Bernadette Walsh: 861-8151

❼ **Somerset Point**
3550 Northfield Rd.
contact 752-5600 for possible opportunities

❽ **University Hospitals**
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call 844-1000
volunteer at childrens' holiday parties

SPORTS

Top Ten Sports Not Officially Offered at Shaker:
10. Rugby 9. Ultimate Frisbee 8. Water Polo 7. Croquet 6. Cricket 5. Karate 4. Tai Kwon Do 3. Judo 2. Boxing 1. Sumo Wrestling

❄ Winter ❄ Preview ❄

'Quest to be the best'

BY LAURA CURTISS
Co-Sports Editor

The men's swim team has splashed into its season with challenging goals and a ranking of second in the state by *The Plain Dealer*.

Coach Ernest Welsch said this team is one of the best Shaker has ever had. He is hopeful they will perform as well as in recent years.

"We have a very, very strong team," Welsch said. "Hopefully we'll repeat what we did last year."

Welsch said the dual-meets will not be a problem for the Raiders. The team has a streak of 50 straight dual-meet victories. According to Welsch, the team's main competition will be at Districts, and then States.

"Barring a major catastrophe we won't be challenged in the LEL. We're really tough in a dual-meet, but Districts will be a battle between St. Ignatius and us," Welsch said.

The team has great depth because of members ranging in ages, according to Welsch. He said old and young swimmers alike contribute to the success of the team.

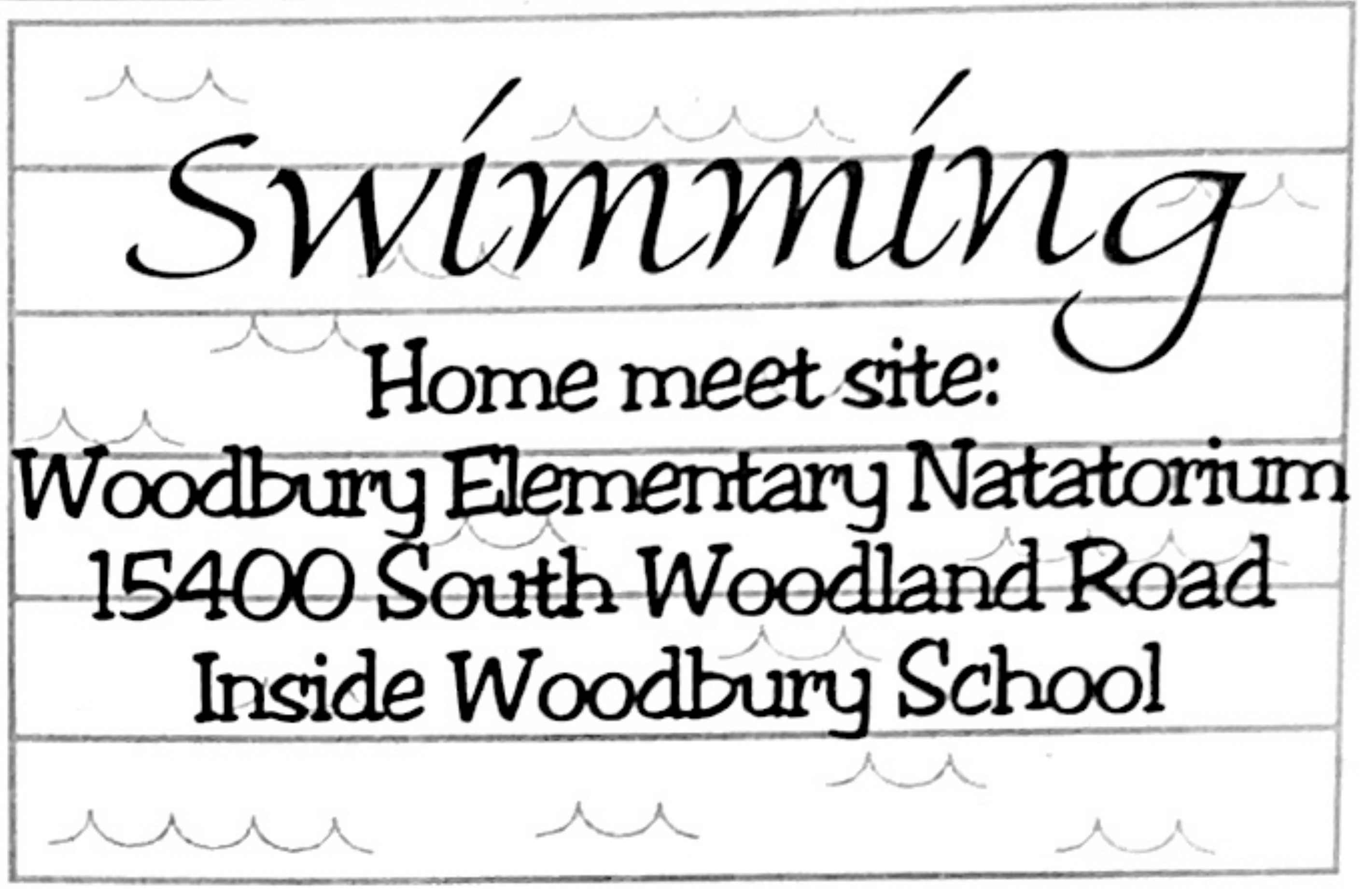
"We will continue to win because we have a lot of depth, and in each event people that are really quality," Welsch said.

According to Welsch, the team's fiercest competition will be with only four other Ohio teams.

"St. Xavier, Toledo St. Francis, St. Ignatius, Hawken and our team are the top five teams in the state," Welsch said.

Welsch said it is difficult to predict the outcome of the season, but the team plans to stay healthy, work hard and taper right to ensure a success.

"It's all about the quest to be the best," said junior swimmer Chris Taylor.



Swimming
Home meet site:
Woodbury Elementary Natatorium
15400 South Woodland Road
Inside Woodbury School

catch them in action:
Fri. Dec. 13 vs. Valley Forge- 7:00 PM
Fri. Dec. 20 vs. Lakewood- 7:00 PM
Tues. Jan. 14 vs. Normandy- 6:30 PM
Thurs. Jan. 16 vs. Shaw/ Beaumont- 5:00 PM
Fri. Jan. 24 vs. Mentor- 7:00 PM

'Puck'er up to success

BY GEOFF DIETRICH
Staff Reporter

The '96-'97 hockey season has started and this year's team has begun practicing, hoping for another successful season led by a strong offense and solid defense.

The team lost nine players to graduation last year. To fill the holes left from last season, some players have to step up and play a larger role on the team. Those players will be seniors Mike Mears, Brent Fuller and Sam Root; juniors Evan Schwarz, Tyler Friedman, Andy Carlson and Carl Ewing; and sophomores Joe Simon, Abe Kinkopf, Tom Mulligan and new goalie Scott Graham.

Despite any loss from last year's team, defenseman Friedman said the team's confidence this year it great. Players are working hard and preparing for a victorious season.

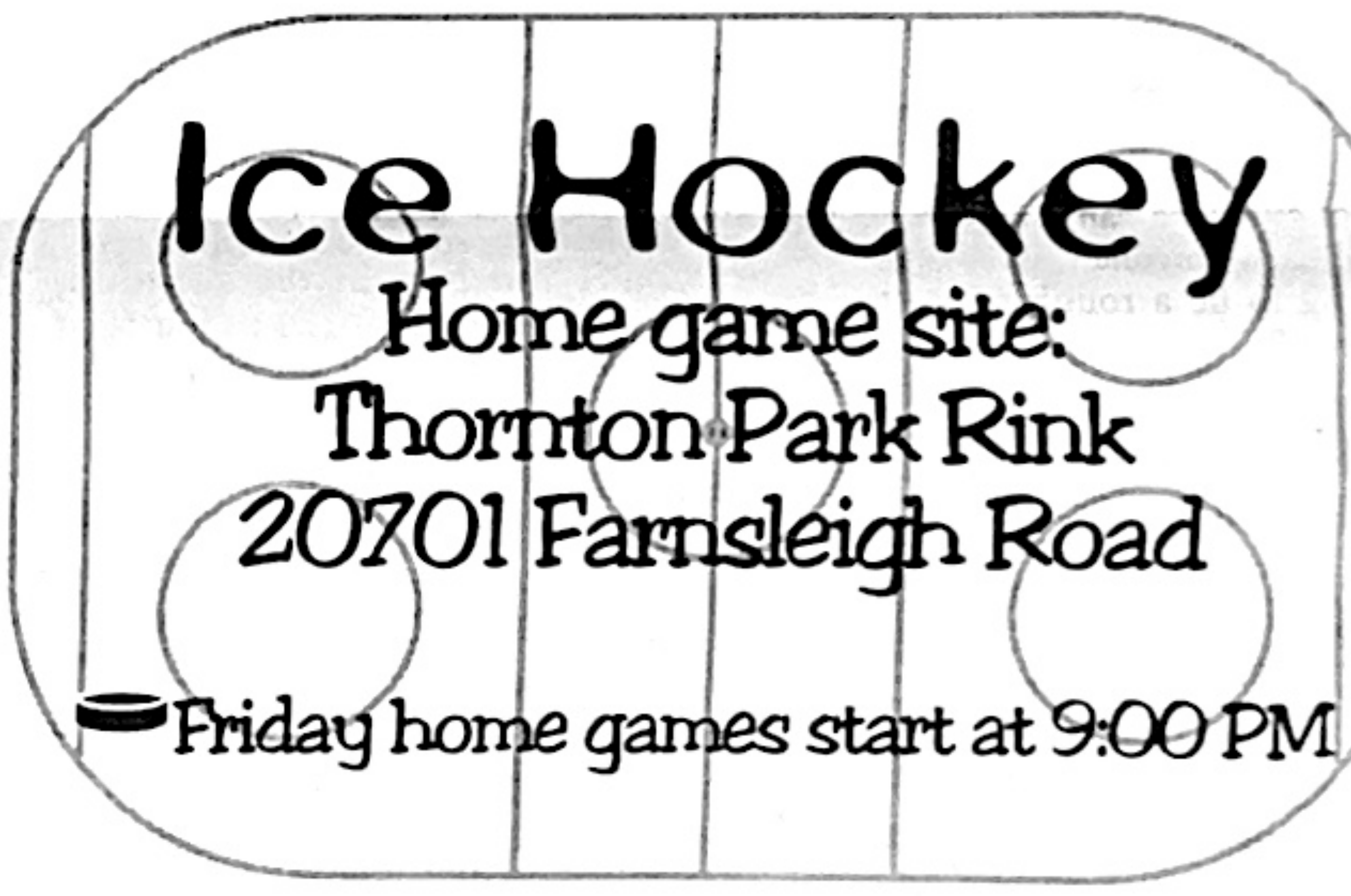
According to center Schwarz, this year's team is ready to produce in the clutch and lead the team to great heights.

"This year's team has a lot of heart and ability, both of which will help to lead us to success. We are strong on both sides of the ice, and I think this could be one of the best years in Shaker hockey history," Schwarz said.

"Any wins the team achieves this season will be thanks to the team as a whole. This season won't be led by one or two starts, but a team effort," said Carlson.

After two convincing preseason victories, the team begins their regular season with a home game against big rival, University School. They encourage fans to come out and cheer them to victory this season.

"We play better when the crowd is there cheering us on," Carlson said.



Ice Hockey
Home game site:
Thornton Park Rink
20701 Farnsleigh Road

Friday home games start at 9:00 PM

Catch them in action:
Dec. 6 vs. St. Ignatius
Dec. 13 vs. Mentor
Jan. 10 vs. Padua
Jan. 17 vs. St. Edward
Jan. 24 vs. Cleveland Heights

Hoopsters have high hopes

BY ADAM COLE-KELLY
Staff Reporter

The varsity basketball team has six players returning from last year's league championship team and hopes the youth of the team will drive them to success.

Sophomore guard Jon Higgins and senior forward Alroy Gibson are the only returning starters. Gibson, along with players Ben Cooper, Kalem Watts and newcomer James Tolbert, will make up the senior representation this season.

The remaining hoopsters are all juniors or sophomores, creating a young Raider team overall. One of these younger players, sophomore guard Todd Finley, said he likes what youth could do for them.

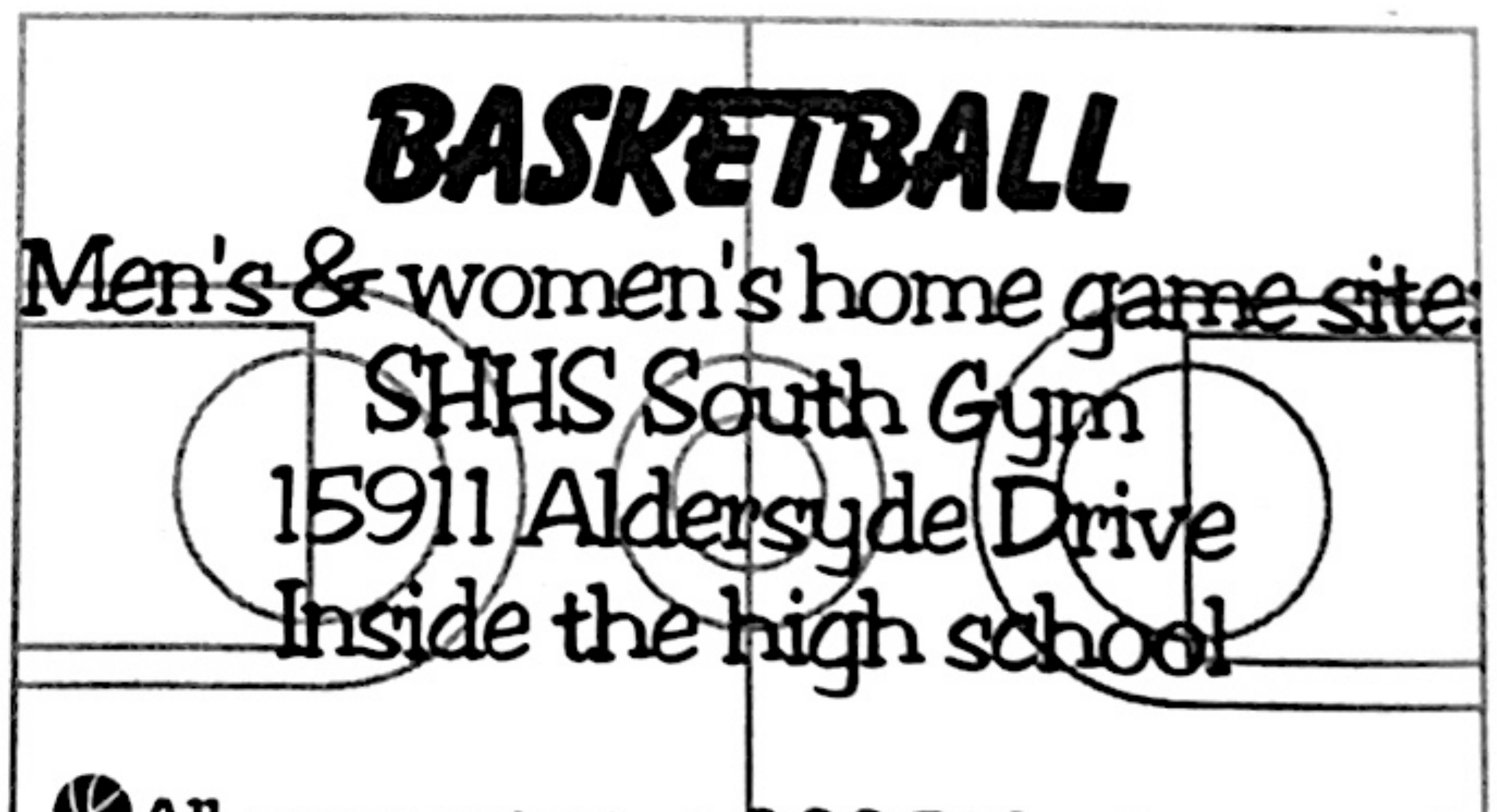
"Because we're so much younger than last year's team, I think people are going to see us kind of as underdogs," Finley said, "but I think we'll be pulling some upsets."

According to Wonson, the Raiders will be playing their typical style of running, pressing basketball and will be creating offense from their defense. Wonson said the team fits this brand of basketball well.

"In order to play the way we play with our press, I think you need at least eight guys capable of going out on the court and really playing," Wonson said. "With this team I think we have more than eight guys who can do that."

Wonson said that the first games should preview the team's talent. He also said those games will show the aspects of the team that are yet to improve.

"Our first couple of games should be good indications of how this team is going to play this year," Wonson said. "But since we're so young I also expect us to improve considerably during the course of the season."

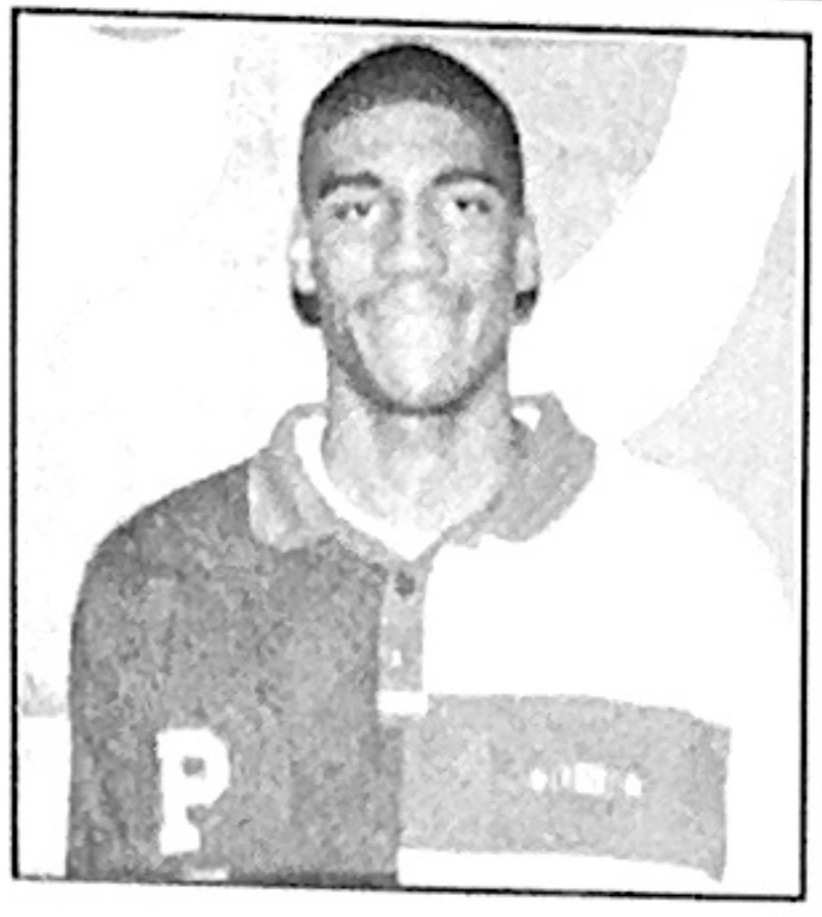


BASKETBALL
Men's & women's home game site:
SHHS South Gym
15911 Aldersyde Drive
Inside the high school

All games start at 6:00 PM unless noted

CATCH THE MEN IN ACTION:
Fri. Nov. 29 vs. Elyria
Tues. Dec. 3 vs. Benedictine
Fri. Dec. 13 vs. Valley Forge
Tues. Jan. 7 vs. Parma
Fri. Jan. 10 vs. Mentor

Tucker a true head above the rest



BY AMY COHEN
Staff Reporter

At the height of 6'7" sophomore Michael Tucker can see more than the top of people's heads. As a member of the varsity basketball team, Tucker has seen basketball as a way of life for as long as he can remember.

Tucker's first memories of learning to play basketball began around the age of six when his dad first introduced him to the game.

"My dad was a basketball coach for my sister's team. I would go to the gym with him, and he would teach me the basics of the game," Tucker said.

Ever since then, Tucker has dedicated himself to the game of basketball, and developing his skills as a player. Tucker credits his success to those who have helped him, including professional basketball player Larry Nance.

"Through my summer league coach I've had the opportunity to work out with NBA players like Nance. He taught me moves around the basket that can be successful in games," Tucker said.

Dedication and training proved successful for Tucker, who played varsity basketball at St. Edwards his freshman year, averaging five points and six rebounds per game.

After transferring to Shaker at the beginning of this year, Tucker is ready to begin a new basketball season with a new team. His main goal for the season is for the Raiders to go to the state championship, an experience which Tucker said he can help prepare the team.

"Last year, St. Ed's went down to states and I was on the team. I can definitely give the team knowledge about what the tournament is like," Tucker said.

Head coach Bob Wonson commends Tucker not only on his knowledge of the game, but also his outstanding skills.

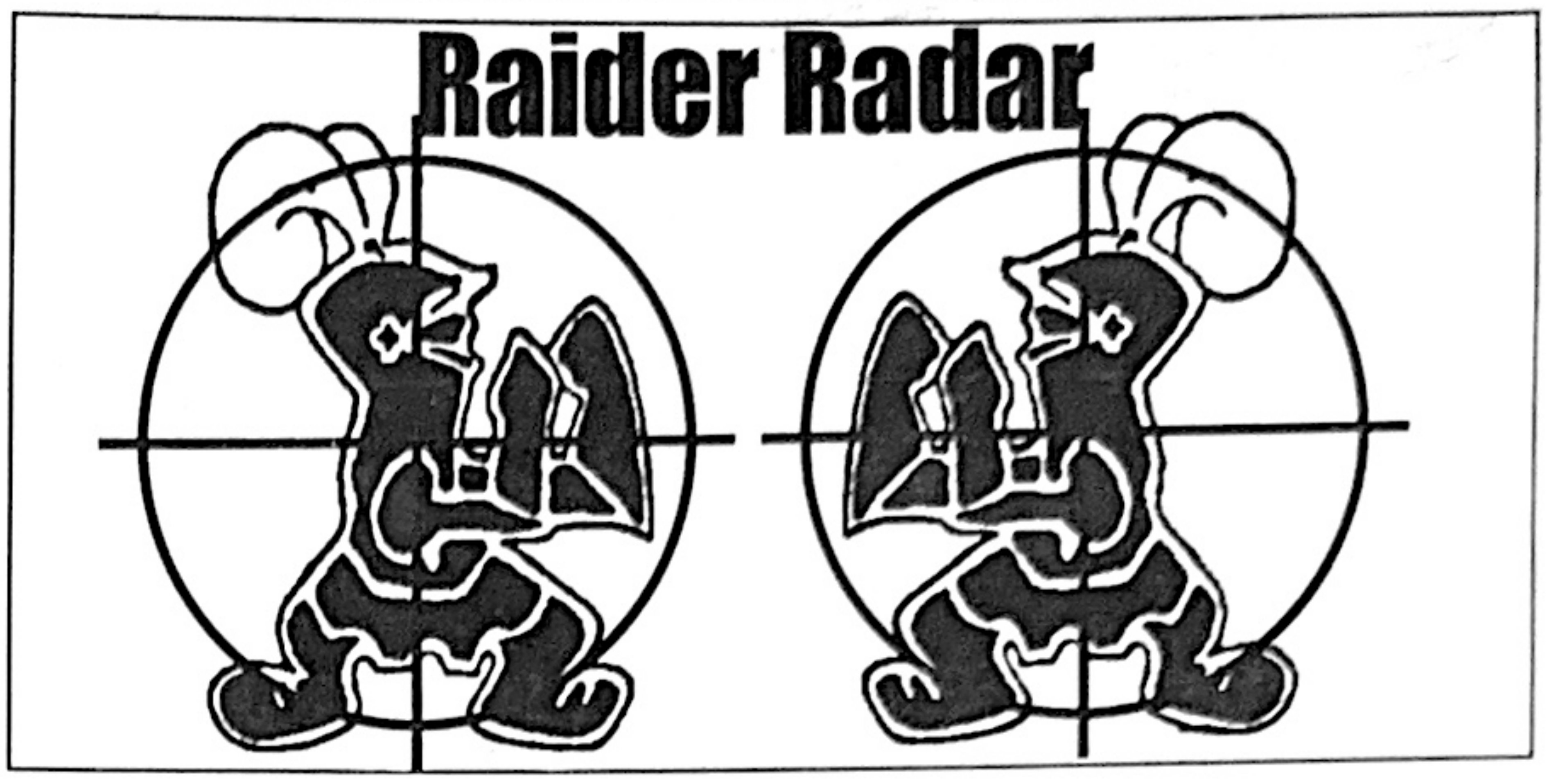
"Tucker has as much or more potential than anyone I've ever seen at the high school. He has outstanding quickness and agility. Most guys his size don't have that," Wonson said.

Whether it was playing basketball at age six, now or in the future, Tucker *said* his support and encouragement come from his parents, who *he* considers his role models.

"My parents have disciplined me well and taught me what I need to know about *life. I know they'll always be there for me,"* Tucker said.

While not everyone can always have the ball in their court, Tucker does have advice for anyone who has confidence and determination.

"It's going to be a rough road," Tucker said, "but you should always stick to it."



Just when you thought nobody was looking...

FULL MOON - A Shaker graduate caught three full moons on Oct. 23, before the girl's fall season ending loss to Mentor. During the bus ride to Mentor three members of the team decided they would display their buttocks for all other cars to see. The three students who were caught with their pants down wish to remain anonymous. All three were suspended from school for three days.

TOUCHDOWN TAYLOR - Junior Chris "Rudy" Taylor finally achieved his life-long dream in the varsity football game against Normandy last month. Taylor took the ball for his first run of the season and went 17 yards for the touchdown.

CONGRATULATIONS - As Co-Sports editors for The Shakerite we would like to extend congratulations to senior David Bass and his driver, "God," for being named to the All-Lake Erie League golf team. Junior David Hauser was also named to the All-LEL team.

HEADS UP! - Two weeks ago, senior Richie McCormack suffered a devastating concussion at an indoor soccer game against Cleveland Heights. McCormack went up for a header and and came down on his dome.

BONES IS BACK - After a three week departure from the swim team, senior Sharon "Bones" Yates made a compromised return to the swim team. Yates will be a member of the team for her senior year, but will only practice three days a week.

GOOD LUCK IN TAKATORI - Junior Michael Gross is considering spending a semester in Japan at Takatori High School. Gross said that he is hoping he will be able to have the opportunity.

"I have always wanted to play in Japan," Gross said. "Playing at Takatori High School would be an unbelievable experience."

SKITZKI'S SQUAD - The Math League team is off to a slow, but encouraging start, mathematical genius and teacher Raymond Skitzki said.

"It's still to early to determine what kind of season we are going to have," Skitzki said.

Skitzki encourages all fans to come out and see the team compete in their next competition.

Raiders of the Month

BY NIKI DORSKY
Staff Reporter

Shooting a varsity basketball for her third consecutive year, senior Naeemah Lewis' talent goes beyond the court. Lewis also excels in tennis, piano playing, drawing and painting.

For the women's hoop squad, Lewis is the starting shooting guard or small forward. She expects the compact team of three seniors, three juniors, two sophomores and two freshman to win a majority of their games in the upcoming season.

"We have a strong defense and we're in great shape," said Lewis. "We run all of the time. Good conditioning will help in winning games."

Lewis said that strong upperclassmen leadership is also essential for a successful season.

Head coach Maleeka Valentine agrees with Lewis and compliments the various skills she brings to the lady Raider hoop squad.

"Naeemah is very energetic, and [I'm] looking for her to be a contributor to this year's team . She has a great work ethic," Valentine said.

As for the future, Lewis plans to attend New York University where she will study art. The fate of her basketball career is undecided.

"I love basketball but that's not my only interest. I love drawing, painting and playing the piano," said Lewis. "I even like playing tennis. I never wanted to play Shaker tennis until this year, but I was too embarrassed to try out for the first time as a senior."

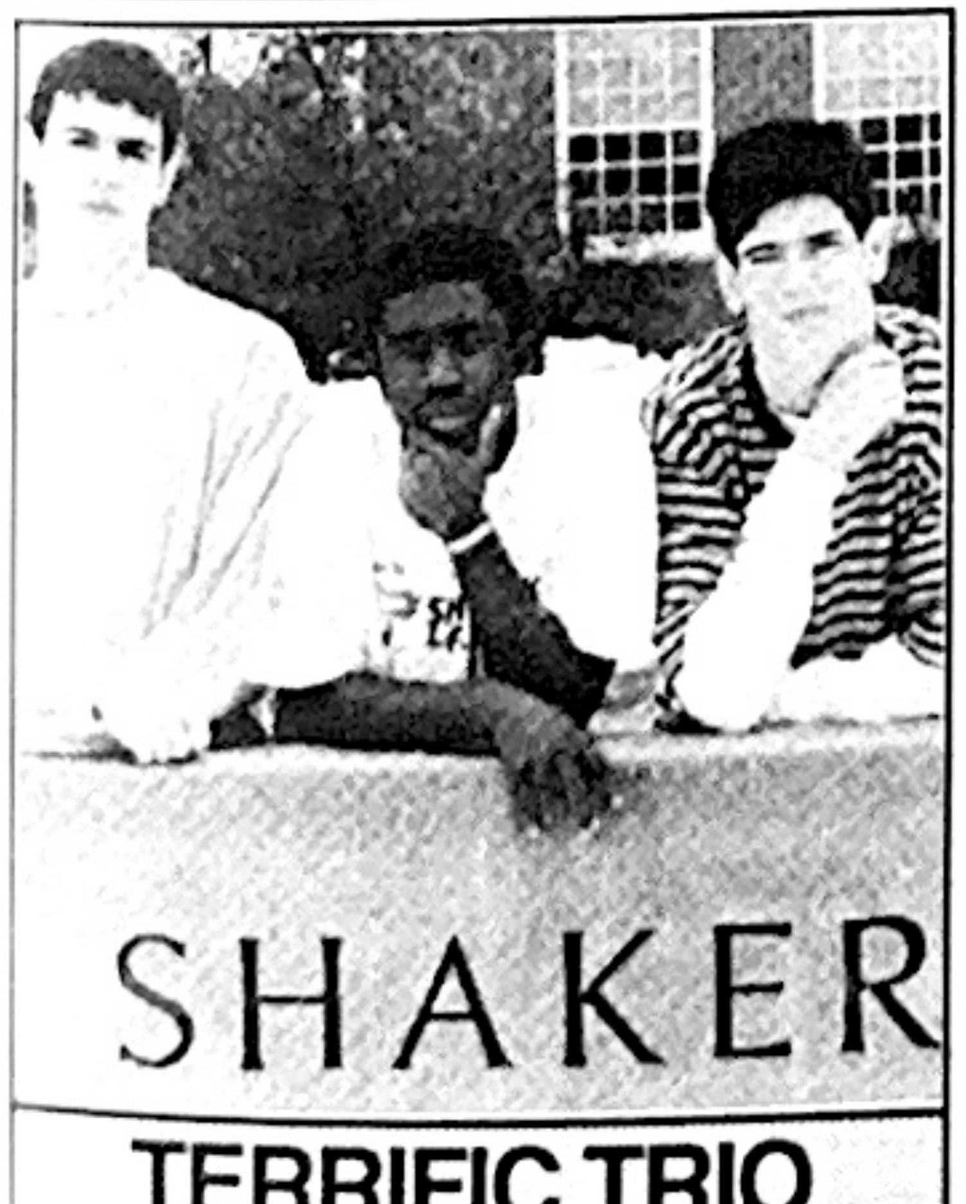
Most of Lewis' time, however, is occupied by the arts. She has played the piano for 11 years and frequently participates in recitals and competitions. When she's not performing, she practices and takes private lessons.

Lewis also takes drawing and painting classes at the Cleveland Institute of Art. This summer she studied film, computer arts and comic book illustration at an art school in San Francisco.

Basketball and drawing are Lewis' favorite activities she said.

A skilled and well-rounded basketball player, Lewis has won the respect of her peers and teammates. They expect her to have a successful and productive season.

NAEEMAH LEWIS
Shakerite photo by Iahn Gonsenhauser



TERRIFIC TRIO
Shakerite photo by Iahn Gonsenhauser

BY TOMMY GELEHRTER
Co-Sports Editor

The terrific trio of juniors Evan Schwarz, Tyler Friedman, and Carl Ewing is expected to provide leadership for this year's young varsity hockey team.

Head coach Mike Bartley expects big seasons out of all three players.

"All three of them are definitely real fine players, they are all really dedicated and will play an important role on the team this year," he said.

Schwarz started his playing hockey 13 years ago at the age of four. Since then Schwarz has played for Team Ohio and Team Great Lakes. He has his goals set high for the upcoming season and is hoping to make the All-Red division team.

Schwarz spends his free time coaching youth hockey, playing golf, and weightlifting.

Like Schwarz, Friedman is playing his third season with the varsity squad and also has high ambitions for himself and the team.

"This year we have the talent to go far," Friedman said. "The team has a great, positive attitude, and that alone will make us go further than we did last year."

Bartley said that Friedman will play a major role on the team this year.

"Tyler is one of our more experienced defensemen; he shows leadership for the younger players, and that helps," Bartley said.

Ewing is only 5'3" tall, and most opponents do not expect him to excel on the ice due to his small size, but Bartley said that they are wrong.

"Carl uses his size to his advantage," Bartley said. "He is an excellent defensive forward; he dedicates himself to helping the team defensively."

Ewing has been playing hockey for nine years and for the first time thsi season he will play with his brother, Rashaun. Similar to his two teammates, Ewing is unbelievably dedicated and challenges himself.

"I have a willingness not to give up, that leads to my personal success," Ewing said.

Ewing enjoys spending his free time hanging out and 'freestylin' with his friends.

RED RAIDER WRAP-UP

Out with the old...

This year is a memory; see you next year!

Football: 8-2 (.800)

- LEL Erie Division Champions
- Finished with seven game win streak

M. Soccer: 13-3-2 (.778)

- Lake Erie League Champions
- Lost in District Final to Mentor

W. Soccer: 5-8-5 (.417)

- Upset Cleveland Heights playoffs
- Defeated at District Semi-Final

F. Hockey: 9-6-2 (.588)

- District Champions
- Lost to Hudson in Regional Final

Tennis: 15-8 (.652)

- Tied for LEL champs
- Sent doubles team to states

Volleyball: 12-7 (.632)

- Defeated at Sectionals
- See ya next fall!

X-Country: 11-8 (.579)

- Finished 6th in League meet
- See ya next fall!

Golf: 7-15 (.318)

- Defeated at Sectionals

Combined Raider Record:
80-57-9
(.579)

Raiders' stats accurate as of 11/20/96

In with the new...

Watch these teams heat it up this winter!

M. Swimming

- Ranked #1 in District
- Ranked #2 in Ohio

W. Swimming

- LEL champs last season
- District runner up last season

Ice Hockey

- Home opener against U.S. was last Friday
- Will compete for Red North Division

M. Basketball

- LEL Erie Division Champs last year
- Sectional Champs last year

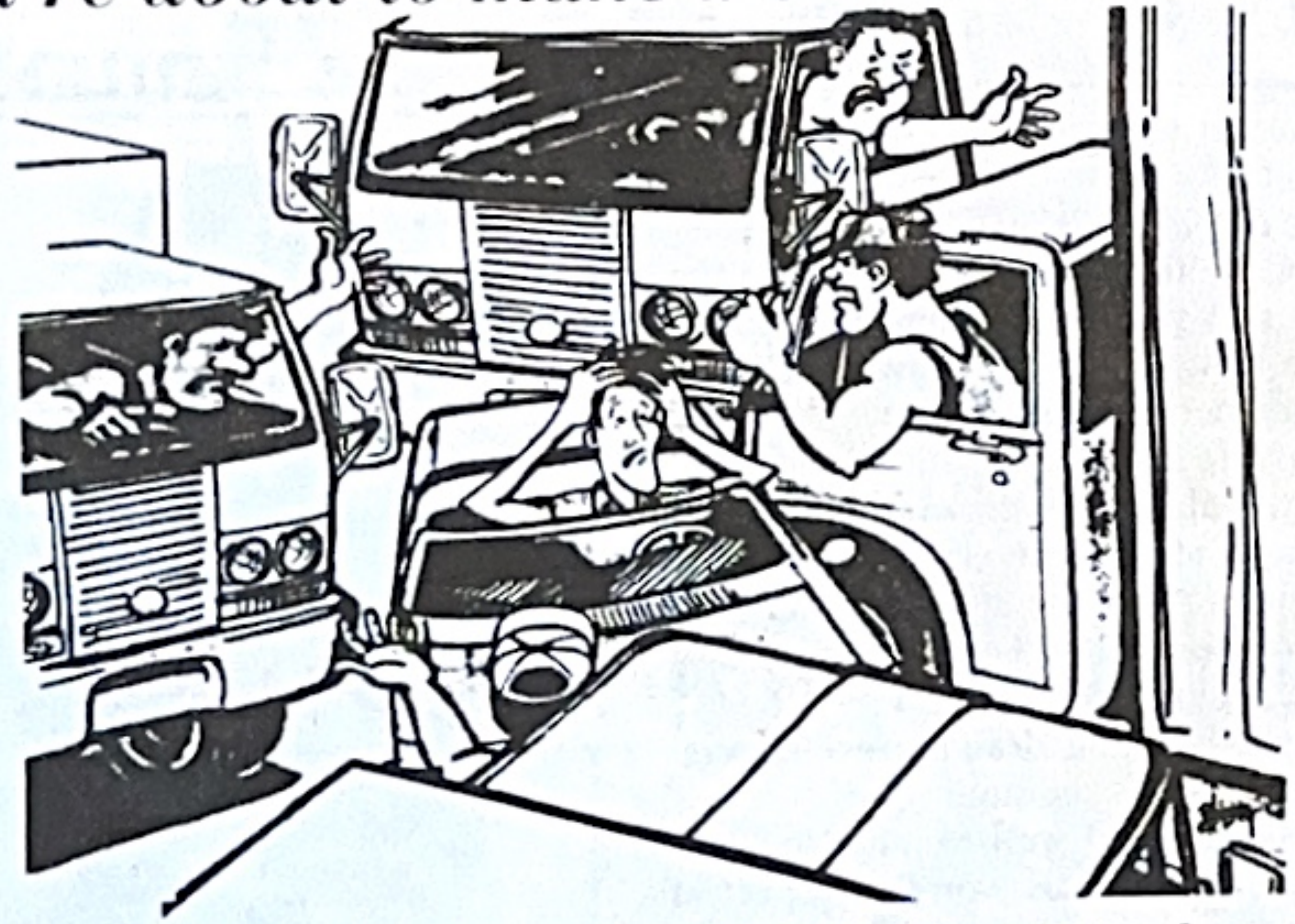
W. Basketball

- Home opener was last Friday
- Team has high goals for this season

Wrestling

- Had two state champs last year
- Home opener Dec. 3 vs. Benedictine

You're about to make a critical decision...



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